Indictment in '96 deaths of lesbians

Attorney General John Ashcroft seeks hate crime enhancements for suspect.

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Time's up!

Hundreds push for global AIDS funding at D.C. demo.

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45th SFIFF opens

Ten conversations about one film festival. see Arts section



PAY REA REPORT

Vol. 32 · No. 16 · 18 April 2002

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Court strikes down 'virtual' child porn law

by Michael Kirkland, UPI Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Supreme Court Tuesday, April 16 struck down a federal law outlawing "virtual" child pornography as "overbroad" and unconstitutional.

The law boared saved in access

"overbroad" and unconstitutional.

The law banned sexual images purporting to be of children, but produced without the use of children. Such images could include actors who appear to be children, or may be completely computer generated without the use of real people.

The Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996 "does more than prohibit pandering (of child pornography)," Justice Anthony Kennedy said in Tuesday's majority opinion. "It

phyl)," Justice Anthony Kennedy said in Tuesday's majority opinion. "It prohibits possession of material described, or pandered, as child pornography by someone earlier in the distribution chain. The provision prohibits a sexually explicit film containing no youthful actors, just because it is placed in a box suggesting a prohibited movie. Possession is a crime even when the possessor knows the movie was mislabeled. The First Amendment requires a more precise restriction. For this reason, (a key portion of the law) is substantially overbroad and in violation of the First Amendment."

Three justices dissented to part of

First Amendment."

Three justices dissented to part of the majority opinion. In her dissent, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said computer-generated images of child pornography may become so sophisticated that it will be hard to tell "virtual" porn from the real thing. O'Connor said she would have struck down the part of the law that bans material that "conveys the impression' that it contains actual child material that "conveys the impression" that it contains actual child pornography, but uphold the ban on pornographic depictions that appear to be' of minors so long as it is not applied to youthful-adult pornography." Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Antonin Scalia also issued partial dissents. Justice Clarence Thomas joined in the majority's judgment, but wrote a separate opinion.

The case which brought Tuesday's ruling comes from San Francisco and deals in part with computer-generated images that may, or may not, involve real people.

Federal law has banned child pornography for decades. But changing technologies, particularly the advances in computer graphics and the Internet, moved Congress to change the law.

Originally, the law banned "visual depictions of real children engaged in page 19 ▶

Time for nightlife's last dance? Not quite



The San Francisco nightlife scene is set to welcome new venues later this year; above, guys danced the night away at ReUnion 1999.

Castro patrol service threatened

by Katie Zak Szymanski

ast month, Castro merchant Imad Bitar found himself chasing a man who had stolen close to \$600 worth of merchan-dise from his store. Bitar, who owns Phantom, a novelty gift shop at 516 Castro Street, fol-lowed the suspect through a parking lot across the street, where he tackled him to the ground and struggled to hold him until police arrived.

It took 10-15 minutes for the San Francis-co Police Department to respond to his 911 call, said Bitar. Luckily, Castro Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner arrived within three to four minutes, allowing Bitar to both catch the thief and recover his merchandise

without further incident.
"If I had to wait for 911 it would've been a

page 16 >

by Matthew S. Bajko

he city's gay (and straight) nightlife scene is set to receive a jolt to the heart this summer.

New blood will be pumped into it by several new night spots and parties set to open, plus Gloss, a new glossy magazine, has been launched to provide updates every other Friday on the status of the late-night scene.

Added care could come in the form of a new entertainment commission if the Board

new entertainment commission if the Board of Supervisors approves a proposal to be submitted by Supervisor Mark Leno in the coming weeks. If approved, the new commission would hopefully make life easier for club owners by removing the police from the club permitting process.

"There are ongoing concerns with some South of Market establishments continually being harassed. We have ongoing conversations with the police to address those issues," said Leno. "I will be introducing legislation, which will create an entertainment commission, within the month. The police should be left to doing what their job is: enforcing permits, not issuing permits."

forcing permits, not issuing permits."

Such resuscitation of the nightlife scene couldn't come any sooner, say late-night ac-

couldn't come any sooner, say late-night activists and party promoters.

"It's an empty shell of its former glory. There is no soul in the nightlife," said Terrance Alan, chair of the Late Night Coalition and owner of Club 220. "There is no community in the nightlife. It has become repetitious and boring."

Club kids, circuit queens, and disco divas be bored no more. In coming months the club scene is set to throw itself several comeback parties.

back parties.

Longtime party promoter Gus Bean and club owners Greg Bronstein (Bar on Castro) and Pete Glikshtern (Liquid) are all finalizing plans for new club venues in the city. Both Bean and Glikshtern plan to open new spaces, and Bronstein has plans to buy the Detour on Market Street as well as the frame shop next door to expand the small bar into a larger club.

Venue closes

Part of the rebirth of the city's nightlife has to do with the death of its largest and page 19 ▶

INSIDE BAR Talk 40 Classifieds 20 7 Mailstrom 38 Mister Marcus **Obituaries** 17 Open Forum 6 Our Man Friday 9 Out There 26 Out & About 36 11 OutRight Personals 41 18 **Sports Complex** Sweet Lips 39 **Transmissions** 10



Faux queen winners

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Mission District social service agency celebrates 20 years

by Matthew S. Bajko

s it celebrates two decades s it celebrates two decades of providing shelter and ad-vocacy for homeless work-ing poor Latinos and people living with AIDS, Dolores Street Community Services will honor two AIDS advocates at its anniversary party April 25.

party April 25.

The nonprofit will honor Chris
Harris with its Tom Tull Award
and Bill Hershon with its Service
Award. Beth Abrams, with Grupo
de La Comida, will also be honored and will receive the agency's
Dolores Housing Program Award.

"We are humbled to honor
these three individuals who have
made a huge impact on our pro-

made a huge impact on our programs," said Bob Nelson, DSCS executive director.

For more than 15 years, Hershon, a former board member of shot, a former board memoral of the agency, has made tremendous differences in the San Francisco community for people living with AIDS. A strong supporter for housing for people living with AIDS, Hershon also established a scholarship program at New Col-

lege of California and served on the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planing Council.

"Bill is not afraid to share his opinion," said Nelson. "He is a great community person and friend to all people in need."

Harris is a senior development specialist with the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program at the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. She was a

portaines on teoper with Teo-development Agency. She was a driving force in establishing li-censing for the Richard M. Cohen Residence, a state licensed full-ser-vice residence where people living with AIDS can reside in a non-in-stitutional setting.

Under her guidance, Cohen has become a successful and award-winning program. During her eight year tenure with the housing program, more than 18 completed capital projects, in-cluding five licensed facilities, 10 pending projects and two rental assistance programs have been funded.

Abrams is the founder and director of Grupo de la Comida. She began organizing the project in 1987 in response to the conflict

then, she has aided refugees who have sought sanctuary in San

Francisco.

Working in conjunction with the Dolores Housing Program and the Food Box Program, Grupo de la Comida provided nearly 500,000 culturally appropriate meals last year. In addition, the agency offers nutritional education control and two control and two control and two controls. cation, resource referral and pro-vides toys to gifted children.

In addition to the awards pre-

sentation during the celebration, DSCS will announce the winners of the agency's photography con-test: Underexposed, a communi-ty-based photography contest that explores photo images depicting radical acts of respect and cooper-

The party will get under way at 6 p.m. next Thursday at Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th Street. Tickets for the event cost \$75 and all proceeds benefit DSCS.

For more information call (415) 282-6209, ext. 17. or visit the agency's Web site at www.dscs.org.

Take this ribbon and shove it: Breast cancer activists challenge pink fuzzy culture

by Katie Zak Szymanski

et me die of anything," wrote Barbara Ehrenreich, "but suffocation by the pink sticky sentiment embodied in that teddy bear.

And so went Ehrenreich's arti-cle that appeared last year in Harper's magazine, detailing her experience with her breast cancer diagnosis and initiation into reast cancer culture. The piece, Welcome to Cancerland," folwetcome to Cancertaind, fol-lowed Ehrenreich through the sweet-themed trail of pink rib-bons and cancer bears, a feel-good motif that tends to prohibit pa-tients from challenging medicine or even feeling justifiably angry. "What has grown up around breast cancer resembles a cult," said Ehrenreich, whose bitterness around her diagnosis and treat-ment was met with advice from fellow patients to seek mental counseling – and fast. Breast cancer advocacy is mod-

eled in part on AIDS activism in the quest for new research and treatments. But its emphasis on survivors masks the seriousness of the disease, and its lack of anger may have influenced the fact that the death rate has changed very

little in the last 70 years.

To Ehrenreich, and to the folks at the San Francisco-based non-profit Breast Cancer Action, enough is enough. A town hall meeting this Saturday, April 20, will explore whether political change around breast cancer "is hindered by ultra-feminine acces-sories and relentless pressure to be optimistic," according to organiz-

The meeting, featuring Ehren-reich as the keynote speaker, will take place at the Women's Build-ing, 3453 18th Street, at Valencia, from noon until 5 p.m. Workshops and discussions – including addressing the recent debate over addressing the recent decade over mammography screening – will empower participants to work for change around breast cancer is-sues. Best-selling local author Anne Lamott will emcee the

Suggested donation to the town hall meeting is \$10, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. A light lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m., and workshops and the keynote address will shops and the keylloce address will follow. Additionally, a book signing will feature Ehrenreich (Nickel and Dimed: On [Not] Getting By in America); and Lamott (Traveling Mercies, Operating Instructions).

RSVP is requested; call Ron Wong and Associates at (415) 355-9988. The full text of Ehrenreich's "Welcome to Cancerland" article can be downloaded at www.bcac-

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Knoller and Noel gear up for appeals

by Ed Walsh

he couple whose dogs mauled to death Diane Whipple is gearing up for

the appeals process.

Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel are scheduled to be sentenced June 7. At that time, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren will consider a motion by de-fense lawyers to grant the attorney couple a new trial. If he turns

couple a new trial. If he turns down the request, as he's expected to do, the couple will take their case through the appeals courts.

On Friday, April 12, Warren agreed to a request from Knoller's new attorney, Dennis Riordan, to delay the couple's sentencing for a month because he said the recorded. month because he said he needed

more time to review the case.

Noel and Knoller were convict-Noel and Knoller were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. Knoller, who was with her two Presa Canario dogs during the hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor, was also convicted of second-degree murder. Noel will

second-degree murder. Noel will face a potential 4-year sentence. Knoller is expected to be sen-tenced to 15-years-to-life. Riordan, a veteran appellate at-torney, replaces flamboyant lawyer Nedra Ruiz who may be best known for getting down on all fours during the trial to reepact. fours during the trial to reenact what she said was Knoller's heroic struggle to save Whipple's life by putting herself between Whipple

and her dogs.
Outside court, a subdued Ruiz conceded to reporters that she may have made mistakes in the trial.
"If there were mistakes, I'm happy to admit them," she said, "and as a matter of fact, considering how insufficient the evidence was. I have to think that perhans. mg now instancient the evidence was, I have to think that perhaps my mistakes contributed to this terrible, terrible, unjust verdict. "The verdict is in complete op-position of the overwhelming ev-

idence of Marjorie's character,'

Ruiz added.

When asked to respond to Ruiz, lead prosecutor Jim Hammer told reporters: "It's unfortunate Ms. Ruiz has attacked the jury and their verdict. It was an incredibly fair trial. I really think Judge Warren bent over back-wards to keep out the most in-flammatory evidence in the case.' Hammer predicted that the verdict would not be overturned

because jurors based their deci-sion on the overwhelming evi-dence of the numerous prior warnings the couple had that the dogs were dangerous.

In a jailhouse interview after the hearing, Noel told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he, too, would likely be represented by a new attorney for the appeal. He said his court-apthe appeal. He said his court-ap-pointed attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, would likely defer the case to an-other court-appointed defense at-torney who specializes in appeals. Noel was philosophical about the prospect of being sent to a state prison after sentencing. He told

the *B.A.R.* that he hoped to be able to continue his law practice there.

"At least it may give me an opportunity to be a jailhouse lawyer," Noel said. "I may be able to be of some help."

Noel and Knoller have a long

history in their law practice of do-nating their services to the poor, homeless, and to people with AIDS. They also have been in-volved in a number of lawsuits involving the California Department of Corrections, representing both prison officers and inmates.

Noel downplayed a report that Knoller was on suicide watch. He said that both he and Knoller are being kept in lock-down in their cells for at least 23 hours a day and as a matter of routine are checked on regularly. Noel said that he hoped he would be given full priv-ileges again to walk around the pod and interact with the other

inmates as he has done in the past. Meanwhile, on Monday, April 15, Smith, along with her attorney, Michael Cardoza, held a press conference to combat a backlash against landlords renting to peo-ple with dogs. Smith said she was concerned that some landlords

would overreact, punishing responsible pet owners.

Smith is suing Noel and Knoller as well as her former landlord for allowing the couple's dogs in the building. Smith told KCBS radio that she might be willing to settle the suits out of court to avoid the emotional stress of another trial.

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Anti-war demo Saturday in SF

by Liz Highleyman

esbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender activists will be among those taking part in a large anti-war mobilization this Saturday, April 20. The San Francisco protest will start at 11 a.m. in Dolores Park and at noon will march to Civic Center Plaza for a 1 p.m. rally.

An East Coast protest will take

An East Coast protest will take place the same day in Washington, D.C., part of a weekend mobilization against U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Columbia. Activists will also protest the appearance of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is scheduled to visit the capital on Moorday.

uled to visit the capital on Monday. In San Francisco, queer participants will march under banners from Out Against the War, Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism, and Lesbian and Gay Insurrec-

tion. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club voted at its last meeting to support the protest. LGBT groups will gather at 11:30 a.m. at Dolores and 18th streets. "As a queer American man, I am sickened by what my govern-

ment is doing in my name in the Middle East – everything from the bombings in Afghanistan to the supplying of arms and aid to Israel," said activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca. "I abhor the suicide bombings, as I believe that violence is not the answer, but I understand the frustration of the Palestinian peo-ple. They should have a homeland, and as a queer who came to San Francisco to find the queer home-land, I can understand that need."

Mecca continued, "As queers, we must think beyond the little box of 'gay rights,' we must think beyond gay marriage and gay con-sumerism to the world that we want to create for future generations of queers. For me that is a world without war, a world that resolves its conflicts without the use of bombs and acts of terrorism."

Saturday's rally is only one way in which LGBT activists are participating in peace and solidarity activism. A street vigil, Queers of the Plaza, takes places every second Saturday afternoon at Harvey. Milk Plaza at Castro and Market streets. Queer women are also in-volved with Women in Black, which regularly holds Friday vigils in downtown San Francisco.

Numerous queer activists, in-cluding Kate Raphael from LAGAI and members of the Israeli LGBT group Black Laundry, have recently spent time in Palestine to provide assistance and solidarity to residents of West Bank cities and refugee camps. As reported in last week's *Bay Area Reporter*, Raphael plans to report back on her trip later this month.

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Hell's kitchen

by Jane Warner

00 block of 14th Street, April 12, noon: Two roommates started to argue about the fact that one of them was facing fact that one of them was facing eviction for not paying ren, which quickly became a debate over ownership of some dinner plates. When one of the men reached over to grab some plates off the table, the other roommate cut his forearm with a butter knife. A pushing match ensued and the butter knife asthe butter knife as-sailant ran to his Crime & **Punishment**

bedroom with a stack of china. The victim followed and grabbed the plates back, then called 911. Angry, the man came out of his bedroom

the man came out of his bedroom and threatened to "get even" by paying rent and continuing to stay in the apartment.

Police arrived shortly and booked the 26-year-old alleged knife-wielder with aggravated assault, serving him with an emergency protective order to stay away form the apartment.

Life and limb

3800 block of 18th, April 13, 4:23 p.m.: Two men who had finished their laundry were riding the elevator back to their apartment. When the elevator doors opened, a man they recognized as a troubled neighbor was blocking their path. For no apparent reason, the man screamed, "I'm going to kill you, branch he was holding. One of the men ducked, but the other man was hit by the branch, incurring a purple welt on the side of his face. The men were able to close the elevator doors and got off at the next floor where they took the stairs back to their apartment and called 911. The men told officers that

the suspect often harassed them as well as other neighbors. Police found the suspect inside his apartment. When questioned about the

incident, the suspect became verbally abusive and would only say, "Yeah I was near the eleva-

tor when I saw two faggots." The 53-year-old man was placed under arrest and booked for placed under arrest and booked for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. A copy of the report was faxed to the psychiatric liaison and hate crime investigators.

Reunited

Live Oak School, 117 Diamond, April 9, 11:15 p.m.: A man driving out of the school parking lot encountered a man with a shopping cart blocking the exit. The driver got out of his car and asked the man to move his belongings so he could get by. The man refused and started to yell obscenities. The driver went over to the shopping cart and kicked it out of the way. When he turned to go back to his car, the suspect ran up behind him and hit him over the head with a lead pipe. Described as a white male, 40-45 Live Oak School, 117 Diamond, Described as a white male, 40-45

years old, 6 feet tall and weighing 185 pounds, with curly hair tied back in a ponytail, the suspect ran through Collingwood Park toward 19th Street. Paramedics responded to the scene and the man was taken to the hospital for stitches.

A few days later, the victim was walking past Walgreens at 18th and Castro and spotted the suspect standing on the corner. Calling 911, the victim waited for police and identified the suspect. The 36-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Spy games

Spy games
200 block of Hartford, April 13,
1 a.m.: A man saw a car back into a
parked car, damaging the driver's
side door. The driver exited the car,
and instead of checking for damage, unloaded some groceries and
went into a nearby residence. The
witness left a note on the damaged
car leaving his name and number car, leaving his name and number and listing the license plate of the suspect and address of the house the driver entered. A short time later, the car's owner returned and decided to investigate, knocking on the door. A woman came out of the house and said, "This note is a fraud. I'm a lawyer; prove it," then went back inside the house. The victim drove to Mission Station and filed a hit and run report.

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.



Tax day draws protest in Oakland

by Cynthia Laird

he scene was lively at the main Oakland Post Office on Monday, April 15 as har-ried taxpayers zipped by on 7th Street handing their returns to ostreet nanding their returns to postal employees. On the median strip across the street from the post office were dueling demonstrations – one in support of the Palestinian people and the other by gays and lesbians who were protesting tax inequities faced by same-sex couples' inability to enter into civil provinces.

same-sex couples' inabilty to enter into civil marriage.

"Long-term gay and lesbian couples are forced into legal fiction this time each year as we are forced to separate out our joint household expenses, assets, charitable contributions, and mortgage deductions, as if we were single," said Molly McKay, who wore a white dress to symbolize a wedding gown.

white dress to symbolize a wedding gown.

McKay, a board member of Marriage Equality California, was joined by about a dozen supporters, including a woman from the Netherlands who is legally married to her lesbian partner.

"We get all the benefits of marriage," said Martha McDevitt-Pugh, an American who moved to the Netherlands two years ago to

the Netherlands two years ago to be with her partner, Lin. The two women were married last May shortly after same-sex marriage



Martha McDevitt-Pugh, left, from the Netherlands, and Molly McKay, second from left, and others rally in support of same-sex marriage.

was legalized in the Netherlands.

was legalized in the Netherlands. "We are recognized legally as a family and can inherit without paying taxes."

McDevitt-Pugh summed up the pride she feels being a wife: "It's being able to say you're married wherever you go."

McKay noted that civil marriage is not a religious issue. "It is a legally binding contract between two people that comes with 1,300 state and federal laws and responsibilities – many of them tax-resibilities – many of them tax-re-lated – that cannot be obtained by entering into private contracts or

by registering as domestic partners," she said. "Regardless of how long we are together, regardless of how much we love and want to protect each other and our chil-

protect each other and our children, we are legally barred from protections that opposite-sex couples take for granted."

McKay and others held signs that read, "I Have a Dream – Equal Rights" and "Civil Marriage=Civil Rights."

Motorists honked in support of the same sex civil marriage.

of the same-sex civil marriage demonstration, as well as the one in support of Palestine. ▼

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Rethinking justice

omething rather amazing is starting to take place: politicians are starting to rethink seriously the appropriate ness of the death penalty. This week, a bi-partisan commission established by Goverpartisan commission established by Gover-nor George Ryan of Illinois released its long-awaited report that calls for a sweep-ing overhaul of capital punishment in that state. While change is likely years away, the report itself is a welcome step because it will hopefully push lawmakers to consider seri-ously the issue of the death penalty and how it is admistered in their own state. it is administered in their own states

The fact that Ryan is a Republican only adds to the significance of his action. More than two years ago Ryan declared a moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois. His decision came after a number of innocent men on the state's death row were exonerated. Since the Illinois moratorium went into effect, prisoners convicted of capital and other crimes in other states have also been found innocent, thanks to advances in DNA testing and the dogged work of college students and others working with groups such as the Innocence Project.

The commission created by Ryan includes

The commission created by Ryan includes influential personalities on both sides of the political spectrum – former Senator Paul Simon, lawyer and author Scott Turow, and William H. Webster, a former head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency. As the New York Times noted in a story earlier this week, "The report represents the most thorough independent analysis of the modern death penalty"

analysis of the modern death penalty."

Scrutiny of the Illinois legal system is recommended by the commission, including fundamental changes in the way police inves-tigate alleged crimes: officers should not, the report stated, allow their belief in a suspect's guilt to narrow investigations; they should

guit to narrow investigations; they should videotape all questioning of capital suspects; and public defenders should be provided immediately to suspects who ask for them.

The Times story noted that the report will be studied in the 37 other states that allow capital punishment — that should include California — and is likely to prompt a broader review of the criminal justice system. We say such an examination is long overdue.

Our governor, Democrat Gray Davis, seems to govern from the assumption that he must be tougher on crime than Republi-

cans. Davis has repeatedly denied parole to a gay man, Robert Rosenkrantz, despite being ordered to do so by judges and his own appointed parole board. While Rosenkrantz was not sentenced to death, his Rosenkrantz was not sentenced to death, case demonstrates that a review of the criminal justice system in California is in order. He has served his time, been recommended for parole, and yet Davis balks at every turn and continues to fight Rosenkrantz's release.

Policing in California also needs to be reviewed. While much progress has been made by the San Francisco Pomade Poma

made by the San Francisco Police Department, the continued problems that LGBT people **Editorial** experience underscores the need for more education and better training of department personnel. We know the situ-ation is not unique to the city; police de-partments across the country routinely mistreat LGBT citizens and people of color.
Opponents of the death penalty have

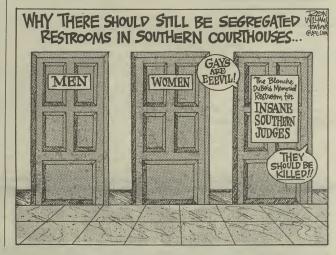
pointed consistently to problems regarding its administration. The Illinois commission's

report seems to give validation to many of the arguments used by opponents to capital punishment. In a review of nearly 300 death penalty cases in Illinois since the state re-established capital punishment in 1977, more than half of the sentences were reversed be-cause of trial court errors and mistakes

by prosecutors and defense lawyers.
Ryan's decision to issue the moratorium and the commission's report are to be commended as a first step in rethinking not only capital punish-ment, but the criminal justice system in general. There is some irony in

in general. There is some irony in the fact that it took a Republican governor to get the ball rolling; and it's also somewhat ironic that the report comes as Ryan faces the end of a long political career enmeshed in a political corruption scandal that led him not to seek re-election. But as his term winds down, perhaps Ryan will become known for something more that his own political problems. And politicians here would be wise to start a similar undertaking would be wise to start a similar undertaking

– to rethink justice. ▼



Eviction blues

by Mark Mardon

irst they came to evict the losers, the dregs, the disposables, the disposasses, and I didn't speak up, because I didn't see myself as one of them. Then they came to evict the working class, the laborers, the immigrants, the migrant families, the elderly, the struggling blacks, Latinos, Chinese, Filipinos, Irish, Jews, and Italians, and still I didn't speak up, because I didn't see myself as one of them. Then they came to evict people a lot like me, the artists, writto evict people a lot like me, the artists, writers, musicians, and photographers, and l spoke up a peep or two because it all seemed scary, and I hated to see fellow San Francisco artists fleeing to E.A., Portland, and Oak-

The dot-com boom came and went bust, leaving many renter casualties, and still I clung to my precious two-bedroom, rent-controlled flat in a two-unit dwelling in the rinner Mission, not far from sunny Dolores
Park, just a hop and skip from the Women's
Building – ground zero for owner move-in
evictions and tenancies-in-common. Fate
could have knocked me off my feet, but for-

tune remained perched on my shoulder.
For eight-plus years I shared the spacious
Art Deco-touched flat with a succession of roommates, including most recently poet, DJ, infinite soul Jamez L. Smith, a kindred DJ, infinite soul Jamez L. Smith, a kindred spirit, who has more experience with eviction than I, as he is an African American artist who's felt the sting on several occasions, whereas for me, eviction has always been what happens to somebody else.

Our little crooked, alley-like street was quiet, seemingly secluded, and populated by friendly neonle. Our unstairs neighbors

friendly people. Our upstairs neighbors

were our landlords, a family – mother, father and young son – all very nice, extremely considerate, and a blessing to the whole neighborhood. My sense of calm in the space allowed me to blossom anew in midspace allowed me to blossom anew in middle age, to make enormous strides in coming into my own. You see, I'm a passably good writer, with aims to get better. Ditto my music, art, yoga, and other pursuits. The house allowed me to live out my dreams. It was (and is, till I'm finally gone) a source of dreams. To some extent, those dreams have affected San those dreams have affected San Francisco culture, because it's been my job – and privilege – for some years now to follow and shine a spotlight on Bay Area GLBT cul-ture, and I never could have done it without that agreeable home base right smack in **Guest Opinion**

the center of things.

Two men, each with a dream of his own, bought the place from the family. One now owns the upstairs, one the downstairs (where Jamez and I dwell) – a classic tenancy-in-common, owner-move-

I leveton.

I loved my neighbors, though they hardly knew me. I couldn't help seeing their comings and goings, though I try not to be nosy – but how do you miss the Academy Awards-destined operatic violinist Thoth dancing and playing in his skimpy wildman outfit at a party in the living room of a house just across the street? And a very narrow street i was almost Medieval Pervenoe row street it was, almost Medieval. Everyone could see into everyone else's houses. The retired couple directly opposite my paramust have endlessly witnessed my parades in and out with friends, boyfriends, and (rarely) tricks, not to mention the dazzling

array of literary/artistic/musical-genius types who partied in my parlor. In general I tried to be discrete, low-key, and unobtru-sive, as is my nature, but when you have two sive, as is my nature, but when you have two Berlin queer-punk youths crashing in your living room for two-plus weeks, frolicking, sleeping, and parading about butt-naked with the blinds all the way up and the lights on at night – well, you no doubt get a certain reputation. But like I say, everyone on the streat was always politic. the street was always polite.

The notice gave us 30 days to pack up

and get out. I continue to survey the rental scene around me, and realize liv-

ing in the city is now pretty much out of my reach. More rental units have opened up lately, a promising trend for the future, but the rents haven't yet come down, at

least not widely, so I'm basically SOL.

All my projects get put on hold while I engage in a housing search, navigating that complex task while figuring out how to move all my stuff – the usual stuff, the usual tasks, but not undertaken of my own will. It's because somebody else wants their dream to come true, and I'm in their way. I shouldn't complain, I suppose. No tanks are

blowing out my door.

So I struggle to dismantle my life and reestablish elsewhere. And the cycle goes 'round. There's a season for everything. Once, rent control afforded me safety. Now the net has been cut loose, and I feel a fall coming on. ▼

Mark Mardon is an assistant editor for the Bay Area Reporter's arts section.

LETTERS

Disagrees with bottom line

Dale Carpenter made many well-reasoned points in "The Mistake of GLBT" [OutRight, April 4], but I have to disagree about the bottom line. I have a lot of trouble with the "practical" argument. It seems to me innately wrong that someone transgender should, say, lose a job or be denied a marriage for being transgender, as it probably does to Carpenter as well. I figure we might as well work for what we really want. HRC-style half-a-loaf politics just doesn't seem to have a very high success rate. very high success rate

wery high success rate. When I look at ENDA, I see a bill so watered down that its protection would only have covered me for four months of my 20+ year working life anyway. Even so, it never even got a hearing when supposedly friendly Democrats controlled Congress and the presidency. Is it a good idea anyway? It's okay. But let's not pretend that it is at the forefront of positive change in our society. It is likely to be bordering on irrelevancy by the time it is passed. I have to wonder if it's really worth pitching people out of the cart for.

worth pitching people out of the cart for. Another "practical" strategy was the effort to defeat the Knight initiative. That effort had many feat the Knight initiative. That effort had many achievements in terms of mobilizing people and resources, but it adopted (based on polling), varying messages tailored for varying groups with the Clintonesque hope that other groups wouldn't see them. Some groups got "it's divisive." Others got "it's not about marriage." Well, guess what. It was about marriage and everyone knew it. The effort hardly budged the polls at all, and an excellent opportunity was missed to make the case that equality is a good thing for all people.

for all people.

So before we go compromising on basic principles to chase some success that may not in the end even be what we want or need, let's think about what we

are really giving up. For my part, I as a gay man can wait a little longer for the potential fruits of "practical" politics if it means that transgenders might get those same fruits a little earlier

Mailstrom

Commendable and stupid

Your front-page piece on Kate Raphael and her trip to Palestine in the April 11 issue was very interesting. I never thought I would hear about a lesbian from Berkeley who was so much against the rights of women. ley who was so much against the rights of women. Imagine, her giving support to a religious group that gives new meaning to the term "barefoot and pregnant." Was she brave enough to wear her "Abortion Rights Now" button when she got off the plane?

It is unfortunate that the language barrier prevented her from "directly coming out." When she returned to the Bay Area she could have told us what it was like to be an open lesbian in a Muslim prison.

The entire story is really more worthy of the National Enquirer, it is strange enough. What will be next? A story with a title such as "I'm Proud and Gay and KKK"?

Ms. Raphael's compassion is commendable. But her stupidity is amazing.

Tom McCloskey Burlingame, California

Questions around conflict

I would like to point out some inaccuracies in Ms. Szymanski's article ["Postcard from the front-lines," April 11]. She states that U.N. Resolution 242 calls for April 11]. She states that U.N. Resolution 242 calls for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from "all the" territories Israel occupied in the 1967, including East Jerusalem. To quote the actual resolution, it reads, "Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict"; it also calls for the states "to live within secure and recognized boundaries." The words "all" and "the" were deliberately omitted from the resolution after much debate. Jerusalem is never mentioned.

She also writes about the "large refugee population." There has never been another comparable situation in the world where refugees have been kept in camps for so long and not been permitted to resettle

ation in the world where refugees have been kept in camps for so long and not been permitted to resettle in the host countries. Only Jordan has offered Palestinians citizenship. The others keep them in squalid conditions for propaganda purposes, and do not permit them free movement or to participate in the host countries (Lebanon and Syria) economy or culture. This oppression is being done by their Arab brethren. Why did the Palestinians not ask for a state in the 19 years Ingran was in possession of the West Bank

19 years Jordan was in possession of the West Bank and Egypt controlled Gaza? Why did they not accept Israeli peace overtures after the 1967 war when Israel Israeli peace overtures after the 1967 war when Israel was rebuffed by the Arab League? The Arabs said "no peace, no recognition, and no negotiation." We forget that the territories were taken in a defensive war when Egyptian, Syrian, and Jordanian armies threatened to "throw the Jews into the sea." Some Palestinian groups, supported be the Palestinian Authority, stridently support this objective.

A bit of historical perspective and accuracy would be very helpful when writing such an emotionally charged article.

charged article

Arnie Jackson San Francisco

Distortions of conflict

I am completely shocked to hear so many distortions in the mainstream press regarding Israel's campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide in the Palestinian territories. To only see and hear what the American mainstream media has to say about Israel's agression in the expusion territories. gression in the occupied territories would make you assume, like too many Americans do, that this is a two-sided conflict. But if you take the time to listen to programs such as Democracy Now! and Flash-points on 94.1 KPFA or read the Web sites of Zmag.org, Indymedia.org, or Abunimah.org, you will see a side of this conflict that is mostly suppressed; the side of the victims of Israel's barbarism. The fact that side of the victims of Israel's barbarism. The fact that there are a few desperate suicide bombers carrying out horrible acts doesn't excuse the fact that Israel is a colonialist and racist theocracy whose half-a-century-long attempt to drive the Palestinians into mass graves is known throughout the world, except in America. President-select Bush recently has come out saying Ariel Sharon is "a man of peace," If Sharon is a man of peace, then surely so is Adolf Hitler. Now that the international criminal court has been created, despite fierce opposition from the U.S., I look forward to the day when we see these Israeli soldiers, their comthe day when we see these Israeli soldiers, their commanders, and the so-called settlers tried and convicted for the war crimes they are currently committing

> Kevin Weaver San Francisco

Mideast carnage

Having been a longtime supporter of Palestinian statehood, and certainly no admirer of Ariel Sharon (remember Shabila?), I find it ironic that I pen

these lines.

Colin Powell arrived in Israel last week and was greeted by the Hamas suicide bombing of a civilian bus in Northern Israel. The target? Women, children, and old people. As long as this terror goes on, we should not second-guess Israel's (and Sharon's) response. On September 11, we here in the states felt but a taste of what the Israeli civilian endures each day. I do not think our response would be much different than Israel's if this were happening to us.

The sadness of all sections to the sadness of all sections are response would be much different than Israel's if this were happening to us.

The sadness of all of this is almost beyond com-The sadness of all of this is almost beyond comprehension. Only two things are certain. Every time a suicide bomb goes off, the result is an Israeli electorate that will elect a Netanyahu or a Sharon. As long as Israel persists in its settlement policies, there will be suicide bombings and more bloodshed.

Until the fanatics come to their senses, people of goodwill everywhere should angrily demand an impediate and to the bloodshed and the occupantion.

mediate end to the bloodshed and the occupation. Now. Today.

Frederick Hobson

Wishful thinking

The Bay Area Reporter would better serve and represent the GLBT community if it reported on the very real hatred and violence directed at us by Muslims the world over. According to Kabbalah.com, Al-Fatiha estimated to the community of the commu timates that 4,000 homosexuals have been executed in Iran since their revolution in 1979 – 4,000 gays slaughtered! Homosexuality being punishable by long-term imprisonment or death is not unique to Iran, and the teachings are not just faraway threats. Iran, and the teachings are not just faraway threats. Islamic student groups on many college campuses, including Berkeley and Stanford, have quoted Islamic scholars proscribing death to homosexuals on their Web sites and publications. In the spirit of fairness, our group of gay conservatives e-mailed every Islamic center and Muslim organization we could find and went in person to local Islamic centers with the following question, "Will you renounce the following teaching of Ibn Abbas, who taught people to find the tallest building in the town and throw the homosexual down from its roof, then stone him to death?" Not one Islamic clergy or center would renounce this one Islamic clergy or center would renounce this teaching of death to homosexuals.

teaching of death to homosexuals.

If Islam won't renounce violence against the GLBT community isn't a "hate-free zone" just wishful thinking? Is supporting those who provide moral and monetary support to persons and governments that kill homosexuals a worthy endeavor? Join us at gayconservatives.org to help bring together the entire GLBT community to denounce all violence against homosexuals

Jim Layton Sunnyvale, California

Redistricting kudos

Often in politics, the focus is entirely on the controversies and we forget to mention things that work out well for pretty much everyone involved. The new boundaries for District 8 and the cooperative work that many LGBT folks contributed to the redistricting process is one of those things.

By far the most amazing part of this redistricting process has been the incredible education I've received on the residents, neighborhoods, and nuances of the city of San Francisco.

next page

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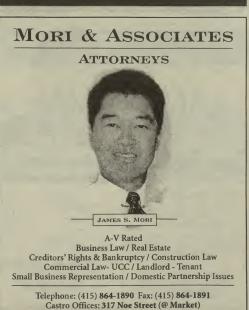
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Mailstrom

previous page

After that? Well, I would say working with the Milk Club on the District 8 boundary lines. Amazingly, it seems that Alice and Milk have hovered around 95-99 percent agreement on the lines for District 8. When Gwenn Craig's map plan was released and Alice members expressed some concerns, Milk Club leaders communicated that they also supported the continued inclusion of Diamond Heights in District 8, swiftly and effectively putting the matter to test. Some of ly and effectively putting the matter to rest. Some of the most interesting conversations I've been part of this last week included members of Alice and Milk comparing notes on District 8 lines as task force members tinkered with the maps. Generally, we com-pared notes on District 8 changes before giving public testimony. Disagreements were dealt with openly, honestly, and quickly.

It was great getting to know some of you better, far too many of you to name. It's very significant, that over matters of community-wide concern, Alice and Milk are developing a new record of organizing collectively. The community is the better for it. I think everyone in this process has treated the LGBT community as partners in this process, and our near-unanimity on District 8 sure helped.

When we have a united front, it makes that partnership are treaters. It is notable, or at least it.

When we have a united front, it makes that partnership even stronger. It is notable – or at least it seems so at this point – that both Alice's and Milk's priorities for District 8 have been met. Our communities and neighborhoods are well-represented and more unified than in the previous District 8. Glen Park is now united in District 8, rather than being split over two districts. Duboce Triangle is unified in D8, as is East Buena Vista (and the park), while more Haight-centric West Buena Vista Remains in 5. Certain areas of Mission Dolores along Valencia will be added where District 8 must gain population, and the added where District 8 must gain population, and the western boundary of the district remains nearly identical to the current district. Finally, at this point is seems likely that the LGBT Community Center will be located in District 8, though many in Hayes Valley preferred it in District 5. Nonetheless, the symbolism of the center's inclusion in District 8, was the day. of the center's inclusion in District 8 won the day.

Sharing mutual victories is a strong sign of a maturing community. It's been important work, and I'm very glad we had the opportunity to do the vast majority of that work together.

Scott Trammell Moore San Francisco

Impacts of quilt chapter's closing

Inspacts of quitt chapter's closing

I attended the meeting convened by the board of the Bay Area chapter of the Names Project on Saturday April 6 where I learned that the local chapter may no longer exist after May 31 ["SF AIDS Quitt chapter to close its doors," April 11]. Since I am the quilt display coordinator at Grace Cathedral, where the panels are displayed in the AIDS Interfaith Memorial Chapel, I displayed in the AIDS Interfailth Memorial Chapet, I felt an obligation to be present and voice another as-pect of this action both to those present at the meeting and, by way of this letter, to the wider community. The AIDS Memorial Interfaith Chapel located in-side the cathedral and dedicated to the major faith

side the cathedral and dedicated to the major faith traditions of the world is visited daily by dozens of individuals who find it a place of solace, comfort, refuge, and hope. The two centerpieces of the chapel are the Keith Haring altarpiece and the permanent display of a Names Project Quilt panel that is rotated on a regular basis. The witness of Grace Cathedral to be a "house of prayer for all people" and to be responsive to the human condition was clearly demonstrated when in the early stages of the AIDS pandemic it hosted the first national conference sponsored by the Episcopal Church to respond to the crisis with pastoral care and compassion to those affected.

Today, the chapel is a vital part of the ministry and outreach of the cathedral community and the quilt covering the entire east wall of the chapel is a vital part of that ministry. In addition to commemorating many

that ministry. In addition to commemorating many man trait ministry. In addition to commemorating many members of Grace Cathedral, including two former pastors, as well as my own partner (#4612), the panels offer strikingly poignant reminders that 45,000 men, women, and children have died of AIDS. The closing of the Bay Area chapter that enables the panels to be displayed will significantly lessen the impact of the mes-sage and memories to which the chapel is consecrated. There is an additional community impact on the

There is an additional community impact on the closing of the Bay Area chapter. Every year in commemoration of World AIDS Day, the local chaptersends along several panels for display throughout the cathedral space. An interfaith service is held annually on or near World AIDS Day to which the entire Bay Area community is invited. The display of panels in addition to demonstrating Grace Cathedral's witness to responding to the crisis, also speaks to the sacredness of all life as they hang in the hallowed space of Grace Cathedral. Their absence, particularly on World AIDS Day, would create a tangible void in the observance of this day of remembrance.

I am aware of the personnel and financial considerations leading to the decision to close the local chapter. The Grace Cathedral community gratefully acknowledges the tireless efforts of board member

Dolores Thompson who has worked with us in procuring the panels, and Michael Higgins who delivers them to the cathedral. However, I think it important that the community be aware of the afore-mentioned consequences that will result should the Bay Area chapter close. In fact, the prospect that such a facility that birthed the worldwide icon to the AIDS crisis would no longer exist in San Francisco is unthinkable.

Ron Johnson, Display Coordinator Grace Cathedral

Knew accused priest

Last week I was horrified to see CNN's one-sided view

Last week I was horrified to see CNN's one-sided view of the latest witch-hunt in Boston. The San Francisco Chronicle followed this up with only a bit more detail. I can only tell you of what I know of Father Paul Shanley and of the majority of Boston Catholics. As a very young teenage boy, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, I attended Father Paul's Mass. It was a sanctuary desperately needed by all the young men and women that attended. Many with stories such as mine: two of my gay classmates were bashed and killed. Another three committed suicide rather than face the overwhelming homophobia. Father Paul was the lone overwhelming homophobia. Father Paul was the lone ear that listened to us and understood. His church was all about loving ourselves and having respect for ourselves and one another in the gay community. He also taught love and respect to street people. He always had food for the Historia travels.

food for them. His ministry was open to all. When I was thrown out of my house for being gay, Father Paul found me shelter. Later on when I lost my Father Paul found me shelter. Later on when I lost my job for being gay, Father Paul talked me out of prostitution as a way to make my rent. He helped me with food, money, and kindness. Two years after that, I was viciously raped while on a job interview. I remember that he sat with me through that entire afternoon, evening, and long into the night. The next day he found counseling for me. I know that I am not the only person that he helped. I wasn't the only one turned away from prostitution. I wasn't the only one that he found a home for. And I wasn't the only boy that needed the help of an adult that he could trust.

Not all of these were "bad times." I remember the celebrations of newfound love, the anniversaries of long lasting loves. I was one of the lucky ones. My greatest love lasted many years, through the 11 years that I knew Father Paul, until we moved away in the early 1980s.

1980s

early 1980s.

Father Paul always rubbed the authorities the wrong way. There couldn't be such a thing as a gay Catholic, much less gay youth. Someone had to "influence" the young and this made him a target. Father Paul was there for the gay people that needed him. Young and old alike found an oasis from hatred in Father Paul's church.

I can remember being photographed exiting Father Paul's church by a private detective who asked me if I was "so and so" and then if I knew "so and so." I recall

was "so and so" and then if I knew "so and so." I recall hysterical parents standing at the doorway demanding to know where the orgy was. I could only tell them the truth, that this was a church and if they wanted an orgy, they would have to look somewhere else.

I found that most Catholic parents were looking for a "cure." Catholic hatred and fear of homosexuals is as silly and frightening as when they persecuted old women with cats in the dark ages. These are the new dark ages.

This news story stretches a long way back. It is, sadly, a story of self-loathing and greed. Come on down, make an accusation! The odds are better than

the lottery!
Father Paul Shanley is the finest man that I have ever known. I am proud to have been his friend.

Billy Lockyer San Francisco

Center helps with cultural life

Eenter helps with cultural life

I wanted to commend Mark Mardon on his recent
piece about the Jon Sims Center ("Gravity shift?"

March 7]. I appreciate Mardon's serious questioning
of what it will take for San Francisco to sustain and
support a diverse and vibrant queer cultural life.
Starting his inquiry at the Sims Center highlights the
cultural leadership in JSC's innovative programs that
support the development of new work and marginalized artists and practices.

support the development of new work and marginalized artists and practices.

I must, however, add that I find the characterization of the Sims Center's facility "as built or salvaged from junkyard scraps" most unfortunate and inaccurate. The JSC's facility is 18 years old, and it is funky and scrappy, but in the sense of having real moxie. I wonder what the new LGBT center will look like after 18 years of daily use by thousands of artists, audiences and community members.

ences, and community members.

I invite the community to come to JSC and experience live art and feel the intimacy and sense of being at home. Whatever the Jon Sims Center lacks in slick newness, come and experience the richness of adventisements are accounted to the community of the community turesome queer cultural expression.

Thank you for a great article.

Rachelle Axel, Board Chair Jon Sims Center San Francisco

New polls favor Democrats for Congress

t the end of last year, thanks to President George to President George
Bush's war on terrorism
and the American public's solid
support behind the administration in that noble fight, Republicans were leading Democrats 48 percent to 43 percent on the question of whom voters would likely choose nationally as the best party to control the next U.S. House

of Representatives.
As the shock of the attacks of September 11 has somewhat faded, however, public opinion polls of the last few weeks show that Americans are once again turning their attention to domestic

concerns, despite the con-

tinuing war on terrorism and the worsening Middle East crisis, and now, for the first time since the Bush presidency, major national polls favor Democrats over Re-publicans in the November con-

publicans in the November congressional elections.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll released last week shows that if elections for the House were held today, 50 percent of registered voters in key congressional districts would cast their ballots for Democrats in their districts 43 for Democrats in their districts; 43 for Democrats in their districts; 43 percent would vote for the Republican candidate. If those numbers hold until the November general election, Democrats stand a good chance of winning control of the House, now held by the GOP, 222-211, with two independents. Indeed, the respected *USA Today*/CNN/Gallup poll indicates that the Democratic Party's insistence on focusing on issues like tence on focusing on issues like

tence on focusing on issues like health care and Social Security health care and Social Security while still supporting the Bush administration in the war on terrorism, might be paying off, indicating the national political land-scape seems to be returning to pre-September 11, and resembling other midterm election years in which the party out of the White House traditionally gains congressional seats.

The poll shows that issues on

House traditionally gains congressional seats.

The poll shows that issues on which Democrats have traditionally held an advantage – health care and Social Security – appear to be driving the party's resurgence and most of the gains the Democrats have made since the last USA Today/CNN poll three months ago came among voters 50 and older. Most poll respondents said Democrats in Congress would do a better job than Republicans in protecting Social Security, improving health care, and setting a fair tax policy, though Republicans received slightly higher marks on fighting terrorism and managing the Middle East crisis.

President Bush's still-high personal secularity have traditional security in the control of the control

the Middle East crisis.

President Bush's still-high personal popularity numbers, while down last week to 76 percent from the previous high 80s, does not appear to be driving the congressional vote and Democratic Party leaders clearly feel they have a chance to wild under the comment of the property o pick up further ground among vot-ers with hopes of keeping control of the U. S. Senate and gaining the half dozen or so House seats needed to control that body as well.

Republican congressional leaders, incidentally, say they see nothing that has changed to precipitate a strong Democratic surge with

voters, pointing out that the president's personal popularity numbers remain high and even point to some other polls showing the vote for Congress between the two parties about even. While some Republicans in Washington profess to be "not all that concerned" about the new polls that show steady Democratic gains in con-gressional contests scheduled for November, one House GOP leader admitted that "Democratic

House members are much more disciplined than we are in getting their message out." In fact, Democratic House members were in-structed by their leaders before the recent recess to talk up health care

health care and Social Se-**Our Man Friday** curity issues

districts, while Bush and House Republicans hardly mentioned the issues as the White House ems to be more concentrated on e Middle East.

the Middle East.

Terry McAuliffe, the DNC
national chair, told reporters that
the new polls reflect the fact that
he and other top Democrais have
met with senior citizen advocacy groups in recent weeks to coordinate campaigns and applied the Democrat's newest computer Democrats newest computer technology to distributing mes-sages to tens of thousands of se-niors, all of which, apparently, is paying off for the party.

Politics and people

In San Francisco, supervisorial candidates are emerging for the November election, and in Dis-trict 8, **Bevan Dufty**'s anticipated candidacy has to be taken very se-

In an historic election, the city of Long Beach faces an electoral battle between its openly gay Vice Mayor **Dan Baker** and the termed



Candidate Dan Baker

out incumbent, Mayor Beverly O'Neill. O'Neill was barred from running again due to term limits, but found a loophole in the law that allows her to run as a write-in candidate. She received 28 percent of the votes in last Tuesday's primary, while Baker received 24 percent. Baker's name will be the only one on the June runoff bal-lot, as O'Neill must again run as a write-in candidate. Some ob-servers feel that O'Neill's attempt to get around term limits might backfire. "Seventy-three percent of the voters voted against the mayor," Baker noted.

And at City Hall observers are saying that new City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** must be doing all right

at the moment anyway; Herrera even has the Bay Guardian singing his praises, along with a number of other publications and groups. Hey, enjoy it while it lasts, Dennis (and besides, we at the Bay Area Reporter told our readers this was a special kind of public servant). San Francisco airport officials expect Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta to show up in the city any day now to announce his pick as to who becomes the new federal security director at

new federal security director at SFO, a post created after the September 11 attacks. Our sources tell us SFPD Chief **Fred Lau**'s name is very near, if not at the top, of the short list.

State Senator Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/Hillsborough) announced last week that she will introduce legislation (SCA 9) that allows an exemption for the sur-viving partner of a same-gender couple for property reassessment when the partner dies. At the LGBT Community Center press IGB1 Community Center press conference with Speier, Supervisor Mark Leno jokingly remarked that, "I'm truly proud to be standing at Senator Speier's side as she announces this though I'm a bit disappointed as I had hoped to make this my first legislation when I get to Sacramento." Leno's aides confided that the assemblymen to confided that the assemblyman-to-be had indeed been planning just such legislation; it will, incidentally, require a constitutional amend-ment which both Speier and Leno

ment which both Speier and Leno feel will become a reality.

In Sacramento, meanwhile, openly lesbian San Diego Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D) becomes the new speaker pro tem of the Assembly. Kehoe is the second openly lesbian lawmaker to hold the post; state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) held the position during the 1997-98 legislative session when she was an assemblywoman.

assemblywoman.

Although President Bush is ex pected in California later this month to headline two fundrais-ing dinners in Los Angeles and the Bay Area for gubernatorial nomi-nee Bill Simon, White House operatives practically sneaked the guy into the Oval Office last week for a 15-minute face-to-face with guy into the Oxa Onice last week for a 15-minute face-to-face with the president, allowing no TV coverage and releasing only a single still photo of the two, which gives further credence to the impression that Republicans are not overly optimistic about Simon's chances but are still committed to at least putting an effort into the governor's race in the nation's most-populous state.

And who says gay Republicans have no sense of humor? The Washington Post reported that the gay GOP group, Log Cabin Republicans, recently took note in its e-mail newsletter of a Los Angeles political dust-up, the one where the L.A. Police Commission president, Rich Caruso, reportedly

the L.A. Police Commission president, **Rich Caruso**, reportedly privately called Representative **Maxine Waters** (D-Los Angeles) the B-word ("rhymes with Abercrombie and ..." the e-mail noted). "OK, it's tacky to call a congresswoman the B-word, but will how pany of you didn't in the commission of the commission presentation of the commission of the commission presentation of the commission of the commissi still, how many of you didn't immediately think of sending him [Caruso] a thank-you note?" stated the Log Cabin's e-mail.

And how was your week?

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com



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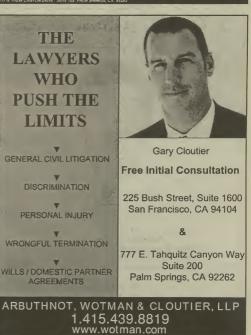
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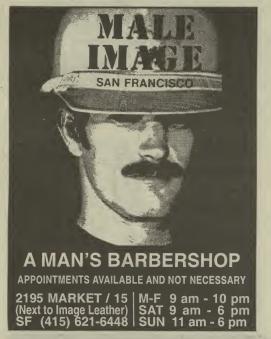


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Spring cleaning transgendered assumptions

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

er, spring has returned. You can feel the warmth of a sun that is just a little warmer than be-fore, and you can smell the light perfume of countless blossoms in the air. It's a good feeling: a sensation of renewal, where we are able to move beyond the chill of winter and into a new day.

One of the signs of this renewal is in the age-old tradition of spring cleaning. Indeed, spring can be a time to go through our homes and **Transmissions**

our homes and get rid of what we simply do not need anymore, and to give the home a good top-to-bottom scrub.

Spring cleaning can be applied to many things other than just house tidying: It can give us a chance to clean out some things about transgenderism. No, I'm not talking about tossing the old frocks and ill-fitting shirts into the donation bag, though that's not a donation bag, though that's not a bad idea. I can think of a few dresses in the back of my closet that I should really get rid of - but

I digress.

The type of spring cleaning I spring cleaning I am suggesting goes beyond clearing out the closet. Rather, I want you to consider tossing out some of your old notions about transgenderism in order to many order to

derism, in order to make room for a few new thoughts.

I may be at an advan-

tage with this. I've grown and trying on new ways of looking at my world. In many ways, I think that is one of the strengths of

being transgen-dered, this abil-ity to look beyond what others might consider to be the only ways to exist in this world. Even then, I know that I've had to discard more than a few old notions along the way.

There was a time, when I was a

teen, that I felt I could simply fight being transgendered. That I could find the right job, or the right partner, or simply learn to be "more like a man," and that this would mean that I could remove transgenderism from my life. Once I realized that this was just not going to happen, I explored just where I felt I fit in this transgender spectrum, trying on and discarding a number of identities. I also digested much of what those within and outside the community were passing off as common wisdom. Some of that has remained, while much of the rest

has been discarded once those concepts outlived their usefulness.

This isn't to say that I've

achieved total illumination. I am still learning and growing, and the person I am today may well not be who I am in the future. I'd much rather keep moving forward, if that's in the cards.

Perhaps you would also like to move forward, and seek a renewed sense of this thing called trans-genderism. I applaud you for doing so, even though I quite sus-pect that we'll both end up in two very different places as we do our

very different places as we do our mental spring cleaning.
You see, I am always seeking out others, and learning what I can from them. While I do enjoy talking with many of a like mind, I often find that my best growth comes from meeting those who's self-identity is markedly different from whatever mine is at the time. It allows me to reconsider my own view of the world, given new input from another's point of view. You may discover this to work well for yourself, too.

You may not even understand what transgenderism is, or what it all means. If that is the case, then grab lunch with a transgendered friend or relation, and discuss just what transgenderism is to hir. Or

page 19 ▶



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Gay marriage and women's equality

by Dale Carpenter

rom its infancy, the fight for gay marriage has been de-rided by some feminist gayleft writers as a movement of, by, left writers as a movement of, by, and for gay men. Marriage is valuable chiefly to the privileged, they have argued, not to the marginalized. Grant us gay marriage, they have predicted, and gay women will neither much benefit from it nor much want it. fit from it nor much want it. No wonder the most vocal and articulate advocates of same-sex marriage have been **OutRight**

conservative gay men like Andrew Sullivan Jonathan Rauch. But new statistics from Ver-mont, the state with the closest thing we have to gay marriage in this country, tell a different story. They show that gay women value same-sex marriage even more than do gay men. In short, it appears the feminist critics of gay marriage do not speak for many

and

The feminist critique of same-sex marriage starts with a suspi-cion of all marriage: "Steeped in a patriarchal system ... the institu-tion of marriage long has been the focus of radical feminist revulsion," wrote Paula Ettelbrick in a famous 1989 essay entitled "Since

When Is Marriage a Path to Liber-

Starting from this base of deep skepticism, the feminist critique next focuses on the danger that marriage rights will lead to "asthat gay people are a lot like straight people. Marriage, ar-gued Ettelbrick, "is antithet-ical to my liberation as a

lesbian and as a woman because it mainstreams my life and voice." Ruthann Robson and S.E. Valentine have written that "[t]he specter of les-bian marriage ... threatens to hetero-

relationize and erase

lesbianism."

These feminist critics have These feminist critics have contended that same-sex marriage may help gay men but offers little to gay women. In her essay, Ettelbrick compared the gay marriage movement to the effort by white firefighters in Birmingham, Alabama to end affirmative action in the local for department her other. words, it's the fight of the already-privileged for more privilege.

"Those closer to the norm or

to power in this country are more likely to see marriage as a princi-ple of freedom and equality," wrote Ettelbrick. "[M]ore marginal members of the lesbian and gay community (women, people of color, working class, and poor) are less likely to see marriage as having relevance to our struggles for survival."

That hypothesis is being put to the test in Vermont, where same-sex couples can get licenses for civil unions. Under state law, civil unions are marriages in all but name. From July 1, 2000, when civil unions began, through January 4, 2002, 3,471 licenses for civil ay 4, 2002, 3,471 inches for the unions were issued. According to the Vermont Department of Health, 1,180 of those licenses went to male couples and 2,291 went to female couples. That means about two-thirds of the unions were between women.

That disparity is significant enough by itself. But consider that most studies have concluded there are about twice as many gay men as gay women. This suggests that gay women are approximately four times more likely to get hitched

than gay men.
What might account for the gap? The most obvious explanation is that gay women benefit more from marriage. (Another possible explanation is that there are far more gay women than gay men in more gay women than gay men in Vermont and surrounding states, but there is no evidence to support that view.) Women understand this comparative benefit in a way that

feminist critics never have.

Marriage is accompanied by a strong, socially supported ethic of page 17 ▶

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Shampoo sellers move from kitchen to Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

mary in the garden has turned into a Nancy Boy in

turned into a Nancy Boy in the Castro.

And soon the city's gay men will be washing their boyfriends out of their hair with shampoos and soaps designed specifically for

with grand opening plans set for May 1, the gay owners of a hair and skin care company will soon have their first retail presence on upper Market Street. Housed in the former Watchzone location at 2319 Market, it will be a small store where customer service is based on the motto: "At Nancy Boy, the customer is always Queen."

The two queen queens of Nancy Boy are friends and busi-ness partners Eric Roos and Philip Oggero, who started their company one year ago and thought it would be merely an online ven-

"Originally, we had no plans for a retail store," said Oggero. "We didn't even know if peo-ple would want to buy our prod-ucts," added Roos.

It turns out they would. And it is not just gay men who have been ordering the products. Straight women have also become fans.

While woman may account for about 40 percent of purchases, the company will remain loyal to its



Philip Oggero, left, and Eric Roos of Nancy Boy in their new store

main target audience – gay men. "We are psyched women buy it. But at the end of the day, we are

it. But at the end of the day, we are guys. Our boyfriends are guys. We always do a guy test on anything we are going to sell," said Roos.

And in addition to the store opening, Roos and Oggero are already testing several new products on their boyfriends. Soon, they hope to add soans a facial day. hope to add soaps, a facial day cream with sun block, pomade hair texturizing creme, toner, and even home decor items to their product line.

No matter what, any new product must be "guy right" said Roos.

The two partners met when Roos hired Oggero to work for him at his advertising firm Twirl five years ago. They both decided to leave the corporate world in 2000 and over dinner one night a year later, Oggero introduced his former boss to his homemade products he had been giving away to friends and family.

to friends and family.
Aside his house in Bernal
Heights, Oggero had turned a vacant lot into an urban garden.
With lavender, peppermint and
rosemary plants thriving, Oggero
began experimenting with how to
turn his garden's yield into hair
and skin care products.
He distilled his plants into essential oils and blended them with

sential oils and blended them with other exotic plant-based remedies clover flower extract, oat, rice and soy proteins, chamomile, shea-nut butter, rape seed oil, sea kelp. Oggero also designed a blue-petal flower logo and came up with the name Nancy Boy. A former derogatory term for homosexuals, gay guys in England have now embraced it as their own.

"I always liked the term nancy boy. I liked its quirkiness, its edginess," said Oggero. "It represents a balance between masculine and feminine. Everybody has some-

page 18

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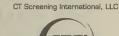
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Hundreds attend DC rally for AIDS funding

by Liz Highleyman

everal hundred activists con-

everal hundred activists converged on the lawn of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., last Wednesday, April 10, for "A Day of Hope," a rally to demand increased global AIDS funding.

The demonstration, sponsored by Health GAP, ACT UP/Philadelphia, ACT UP/New York, Jubilee USA, and Artists for a New South Africa, brought together AIDS, religious, and human rights activists from a variety of organizations, as well as a large number of people with AIDS. Nearly 60 groups endorsed the action, including such heavy-hitters as the AFL-CIO, the Green Party, and the National Organization for Women.

ganization for Women.
Activists contend that Presi-Activists comend that President Bush's allocations to date for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria are in-sufficient, and called on Congress to add \$750 million for AIDS relief to Bush's emergency supple-mental funding request for the current fiscal year (covering most-ly defense-related expenditures), which is expected to be finalized by the end of the month.

Noting that the AIDS epidemic is "pressing national security issue as a "pressing national security issue as well as a moral and humanitarian crisis," East Bay Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D) said, "Increased funding for programs to fight HIV/AIDS in the international com-

HIV/AIDS in the international community also benefits our nation."

Representatives John Conyers (D-Michigan) and Jim Leach (R-Jowa) also spoke at the rally.

The demonstrators also asked legislators to provide \$2.5 billion in next year's budget for the global fund and other international HIV/AIDS programs, and demanded that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund cancel all debts owed by poor countries.

"If your neighbor's house is burning down, you don't hand him a cup of water. You help him put out the fire," said actor and ANSA founder Danny Glover. "AIDS has become a manageable disease for many people with HIV.

disease for many people with HIV who are fortunate enough to live in the United States and other mealthy countries, but there are 36 million of our brothers and sisters on the other side of that divide – in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

on the other side of that divide in Africa, Asia, and Latin America – who are dying needlessly. We cannot accept that."

The protest was visually striking, with activists brandishing giant masks and a large alarm clock to symbolize that "time is up." A bell tolled every 11 seconds, which activists said represented the frequency of AIDS-related deaths worldwide.

Comparing AIDS to the Holocaust, Rabbi David Saperstein, of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, spoke of "the terrible price paid when men and women stand idly by while innocents are victimized or suffer."

Following the rally, some 75 activists lobbied legislators on the Hill. The day ended with a reception featuring Lee, Glover, and HealthGAP founder Dr. Alan Berkman, who discussed the current status of the global fund.

rent status of the global fund. The fund is expected to make its first round of grant allocations at a meeting in New York City next week, although there is not nearly enough money to cover the \$5 bil-lion in applications received to date.



Activists at last week's D.C. demo in support of global AIDS funds used a giant clock to symbolize "time is up."

"Right now [the global fund] is too starved for funds to accomplish its goals," said Paul Davis of ACT UP/ Philadelphia and Health GAP. "Unless Congress turns Bush's stingy 2003 budget request into the \$2.5 billion experts agree is the U.S. fair share, 2003 will be another year of business as usual – another 3 million dead from AIDS."

Although the 2003 fiscal year

budget will not be decided until the summer, advocates are already busy. The day after Wednesday's rally, singer Elton John appeared before the Senate Health, Educabefore the Senate Health, Educa-tion, Labor, and Pensions Com-mittee asking for increased inter-national AIDS funding; John was invited to speak by committee panel chair Senator Edward panel chair Senator Euwa Kennedy (D-Massachusetts).

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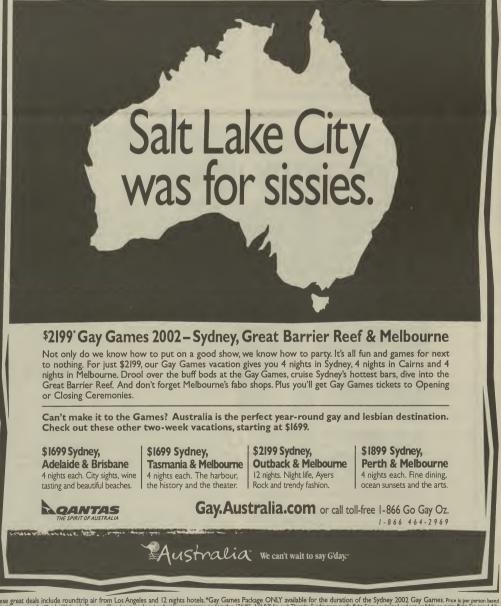


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Feds charge accused murderer of lesbians with hate crime

by Bob Roehr

he 1996 murder of two les-bians while they were back-packing in the Shenandoah National Park has been solved with the indictment of their alleged killer. Attorney General John Ashcroft made the high-profile announcement at an April 10 news conference in Washington, D.C. He called the murders a hate crime and is seeking the death penalty for the accused.

The victims are Julianne Marie Williams, 24, and Laura S. Winans, 26. They were romantically involved and were planning on establishing a joint household later that summer in Vermont when, in late May 1996, they were

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reported missing while hiking in the park in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, southwest of Washington, D.C.

Their bodies were discovered on June 1, 1996, at an isolated trail campsite in the park. They were bound and gagged, their throats slashed. Investigators scoured the

slashed. Investigators scoured the countryside looking for clues at the time of the double murder, seemingly to no avail.

Now, Darrell David Rice, 34, has been charged with four counts of capital murder by a federal grand jury in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is currently serving time in the Petersburg Federal Penitentiary for an assault and attempted but failed abduction of another woman in 1997 in the same park.

woman in 1997 in the same park.
"Today's indictment charges that Rice singled out Williams and Winans for murder because of their gender or sexual orienta-tion," Ashcroft said at the news conference. "Rice has stated on several occasions that he enjoys assaulting women because they are, in his words, quote, 'more vul-

are, in his words, quote, more vul-nerable,' than men."

The government's case also
"describes evidence of Rice's ha-tred for homosexuals, including statements that Julianne Williams and Laura Winans deserved to die because he believed they were ho-mosexuals," said Ashcroft.

The indictment states that Rice said the women "deserved to die

because they were lesbian

because they were testinatively whores."
"Our message this morning is unambiguous and clear," Ashcroft continued. "The volatile, poisonous mixture of hatred and violence will not go unchallenged in the American system of justice. By invoking the hate crimes enhancement parts of sentencing, today's ment parts of sentencing, today's murder indictment makes clear our commitment to seek every prosecutorial advantage and to use every available statute to se-cure justice for victims like Ju-lianne Marie Williams and Lollie

The use of federal hate crimes enhancements was possible be-cause the park where the murders occurred is under jurisdiction of federal law. It is the first time that federal law has been used to seek an enhanced penalty based upon gender or sexual orientation.

gender or sexual orientation.

"After five years, we are relieved that progress has been made in the case," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "However, it is a sad reminder of the pervasiveness of hate violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people."

lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people."
Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, praised the federal government for recognizing "the horrendous nature of this hate crime and that it should be prose-

cuted to the fullest extent of the law." She urged passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act that would expand the scope and area of hate crimes cov-

"This is another example of the Bush administration's commitment to ensuring that all Americans, including gay Americans, are treated fairly under the law," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "It is also another example of the attorney general following through on what he said he would do as the nation's top law enforcer."

Most gay and lesbian national organizations actively opposed Ashcroft's nomination to be attorney general because of his ties to social conservatives. Log Cabin initially had reservations about the nomination but those concerns were eased by statements of non-discrimination that Ashcroft made during the confirmation process. The organization subse-quently has met and worked with

the attorney general and his staff.
Ashcroft sidestepped a question as to whether the administration as to whether the administra-tion supports hate crimes legisla-tion now pending before Congress that would broaden existing law to include sexual orientation and other categories under federal statutes. He said the matter was under review. ▼

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Annual HIFY event next Thurs.

by Katie Zak Szymanski

ust off your better clothes and open your palms: at the HIFY "Hand in Hand" awards event on Thursday, April 25, guests will have a chance to meet many community leaders and are almost guaranteed not to

walk away empty handed. HIFY, which stands for Health Initiatives for Youth, has for eight Initiatives for Youth, has for eight years aimed to improve health care and access for youth, believing that young people themselves are their own best advocates.

The organization's awards event will honor Mary Isham and Marlene Sanchez, two longtime grassroots organizers.

grassroots organizers.
Isham, a nurse who helped to

build youth programs within San Francisco's Department of Public Health, also directed the creation of the Mission High School Health Center, and has worked as a con-Center, and has worked as a consultant to many San Francisco-based health promotion projects. She will receive HIFY's Distinguished Service Award for 2002. Sanchez, a first generation Mexican American, has worked with the Center for Young Women's Development for seven years and it.

welopment for seven years, and is now the organization's director of programs. She is a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission, and is initiating an effort to implement an anti-harassment policy to protect the rights of LGBTQ youth in detention facilities. She will receive HIFY's Emerging Leader Award for

In addition to the awards cere-mony, next Thursday's event will feature a silent auction that includes Gold's Gym memberships, dinners at local restaurants, and gourmet baskets. Complimentary wine, hors d'oeuvres, and non-alcoholic bever-

d'œuvres, and non-alcoholic bever-ages will be served and special visits from the "Safe Sex Faerie" (bearing condoms) and the "Harm Reduc-tion Faerie" are expected. The HIFY event will be held at the Hang Art Gallery at 556 Sutter Street from 6-9 p.m., and tickets start at \$25. Proceeds from the evening age, toward furthering start at \$25. Proceeds from the evening go toward furthering HIFY efforts such as addressing the needs of HIV-positive and atrisk youth, and publishing resource guides.

To reserve a spot at the event, call (415) 264-1970, ext. 14. ▼

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Services address LGBT seniors, caregivers

by Katie Zak Szymanski

f you're like many LGBT people, you're the first one called to take care of your parents because you have no "spouse" or children of your own. Or, as an LGBT caregiver to a friend or same-sex partner, you encounter discrimination often than helpful advice

from mainstream providers.

Recognizing the unique needs of LGBT caregivers, the Family Caregiver Alliance has launched an online support group, available 24 hours a day, specifically for LGBT people who have the re-sponsibility of caring for someone

with a chronic condition. The address of the support group is www.caregiver.org/lgbt-spt-group.html, and subscribers will be able to share ideas and strategies in list serve (e-mail) format.

The support group is just one of many efforts launched by the Family Caregiver Alliance as part of its new "Caring Community Project," which is specifically fo-

cused on increasing outreach to the LGBT population. On Monday, April 29, a work-shop for LGBT caregivers of older adults (of any sexuality) will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Spectrum Center in Marin Coun-ty; call (415) 457-1115 for more

information

FCA will also host, in conjunc-tion with New Leaf Outreach to Eltion with New Leaf Outreach to Elders, a free workshop for people of all sexualities who care for LGBT seniors. Entitled, "Guard Your Legal Rights," the workshop will run Thursday, April 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, and will help people who care for LGBT seniors ensure that their loved one's wishes are followed. To register for this worklowed. To register for this work-shop, LGBT seniors and their care-givers should call (415) 255-2937.

For more information on FCA, as well as a list of resources, visit www.caregiver.org.

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Castro patrol **◀** page 1

different story," Bitar told the Bay Area Reporter. "He was a big strong guy and I couldn't hold him for too long. It really helped to me to have Jane around."

Bitar contacted the B.A.R. out

of concern that most merchants are not aware of the importance of a special patrol presence on the neighborhood streets. Unfortu-nately, he's right: Warner, because of a lack of clients on Castro be-tween 19th and Market streets, has sent a notice to the merchants along those blocks warning that her patrol service to that particu-

her patrol service to that particu-lar area may soon have to end.
"Only five businesses on Cas-tro from 19th to Market support my services," explained Warner, who works only when merchants and residents pay for her services, which average a mere \$5 per day. "If I don't get more business there, then I'll continue to respond to then I'll continue to respond to the accounts on that strip but I may have to discontinue the walk-

may have to discontinue the waik-ing patrol."
Many merchants, noted Lion Barnett, past president and cur-rent board member of Eureka Val-ley Promotion Association, are able to take advantage of Warner's patrol services without paying, simply because their stores fall

simply because their stores fall along her clients' route.
"If she has clients on the opposite side of Market Street, she has to walk from one end to the other, and she takes care of everything she encounters along the way," said Barnett. "The people paying her are really helping the community. If more people paid, then the overall fee would probably go down, and more people would benefit."



SF Patrol Special Police Officer

That won't be the case if Warner has to cut down her patrol services, however. She remains well-funded by the businesses near and on 18th Street, which allows her to service that entire area. But fewer clients toward 19th Street means

clients toward 19th Street means that eventually, not even her paying clients on that route will benefit from regular street patrol.

"It would affect us if she stopped patrolling," lamented Bitar, "and it would affect everyone else too."

Thus far, Warner has enlisted two additional clients since her notice hit mailboxes three weeks ago. Shawn Vergara, manager of the Bar on Castro, said his business signed on because, "It's important to have somebody that can re-

spond a lot faster than the police stations.

'Someone like Jane really un-

spond a lot faster than the police stations.

"Someone like Jane really understands the neighborhood and really knows all of the people. We don't want to lose her services."

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police forces, hired privately but trained by the SFPD, have authority to patrol the streets through which they make their incomes. Currently, Warner, who has been on the job for the past nine years, is the only member of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police. But EVPA is examining avenues to hiring another officer, a social worker, and a department clerk in order to free Warner from paperwork tasks that aren't patrol-specific, according to Barnett.

In the meantime, Warner will continue her daily duties in the Castro, although she has picked up some extra work in the Mission District.

"It's possible that the 19th Street strip of the Castro could lose my services to other areas, where people are starting to hire me and the crime is often more serious," said Warner, who is still hopeful that more Castro merchants will sign on for her services. Regardless of whether she can afford to patrol all of its streets, said Warner, the Castro is her beat, and as long as she has clients, she will respond to their concerns. What may soon be missing, however, are those incidental discoveries that she has been able to address as part of a more extensive route. \textsupersequence. been able to address as part of a more extensive route.

Disclosure: Jane Warner also compiles the Crime and Punishment column in the Bay Area Reporter.





OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Jack (Nooch) Antonucci August 1, 1934 — April 2, 2002

We've heard many "last calls" lately from some of the best bartenders and people in the city. The most recent was for our dear friend Nooch. Jack died suddenly of cancer_on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2002.

Jack was born in Fresno and moved to San Francisco after a stint in the Army. He loved to tell of his war "in-



jury." He broke his leg in Germany after being hit by a motorbike. If you want to admit your

want to admit your age, you can recall watching him tend bar at the Hide-away or Rendezvous on Sutter, the 524 Club on Union Street, the Baj, Jackson's, Gordons, Googies then on to the Giraffe on Polk Street.

Despite his wit and storytelling, Jack was a very private person.

Despite his wit and storytelling, Jack was a very private person.

So, dear Jack, from those who were close over the years, from those who had the good fortune to get to know you over a drink along the way...rest easy.

A gathering of friends will be held on Saturday, April 20th at 12 noon at the Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk St.

Some of Jack's favorite foods will be catered by Dennis Tyler.

Marlon Paran Maranan March 3, 1971 — March 8, 2002

Marlon Maranan, 31, of San Fran-Marlon Maranan, 31, of San Fran-cisco, died from respiratory failure at Kaiser Hospital in South San Francisco on March 8, 2002. Marlon, who was born in Batangas, Philippines, is sur-vived by his 8-year domestic partner, Darin DuBree, Marlon's mother, Leticia; brothers, Franco, Hector, Junior, Gener, Billy and Larry; sisters, Minerva Bascara, Florence LaVerne and Maureen, and 19



nephews and

nieces. Marlon had been an active ad-vocate for HIV and AIDS in the Fil-ipino-American community through his involvement in the AIDS prevention

AIDS prevention awareness transit ad campaign of Filipino Task Force on AIDS in the early '90s. He, along with Darin, was a consistent holiday donor of gift baskets to the AIDS pediatric unit of San Francisco General Hospital.

Marlon was employed by the dental office of Dr. Bronzini in Millbrae as a financial coordinator, and also previously with the University of the Pacific Dental School (Pediatric Dept.) in San Francisco.

Co. Marlon, we miss your gentle kind-ness and generous love and understand-ing. Your modesty and generosity touched many hearts and lives. Your smile, dimples and warm laugh will re-main in our hearts forever. The community is invited to a memorial mass in commemoration of his 40th day since his death. The mass will be celebrated on April 21, 2002 at 11 a.m. in St. Augustine's church in South San Francisco. Darin and the Maranan Family thank those who have expressed their sympathies and prayers for Marlon, including Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and her staff members.



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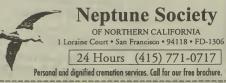
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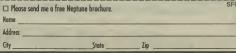
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Former Emperor Bobby Pace dies

by Cynthia Laird

memorial will be held this Sunday, April 21, at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the Castro to celebrate the life of former Emperor IX Bobby Lee Pace, who lost a long battle with diabetes and died March 6 in Palm Springs, Califor-

nia.

Mr. Pace was born outside of Mr. Pace was born outside of Denver, Colorado in 1936. He was raised by his grandmother and moved to San Francisco in 1957. Friends said that Mr. Pace leaves no surviving relatives but a very large extended family – namely the Imperial Family of San Francisco – and many friends.

Mr. Pace worked as a bartender at many of San Francisco's notable gay bars over the years before he

gay bars over the years before he retired in 2000. Some of those bars included The Golden Cask, Gilmore's, Kokpit (now Mr. Lee*Ona's), Twin Peaks, Maude's Study, Pendulum, Phone Booth, Old Rick's Gold Room, The Wooden Horse, Nothing Special, and the Mint. He was an avid sup-porter of the Community Softball League, and was their "Sweet-League, and was their "Swe heart" who raised \$1,300 by s ing 10-cent tickets to send the San Francisco Champions to the first Gay World Series in New York



The late Emperor Bobby Lee Pace

Mr. Pace had been involved with the Imperial Court System from the very beginning with Em-press I José, The Widow Norton, press I José, The Widow Norton, in 1965. He supported many candidates for Empress and Emperor and was elected the ninth Emperor After Norton in 1980. Mr. Pace was known as the "Shamrock Emperor" and served his year with two different Empresses, Absolute Empress XV Tenderloin Tessie and Absolute Empress XVI Pushy Phyllis. This was during the time when the Emperors and Empresses were elected separately and approximately six months apart, so the Emperor had two Empresses or the Empresses were the Empresses were decreased to the Empresses w the Emperor had two Empresses

during his reign. Mr. Pace cele-brated his 20th anniversary as Emperor of San Francisco at Coronation 2001 on March 3, 2001 at the Gift Center Pavilion. Also known for his charitable work, Mr. Pace hosted monthly spaghetti feeds that benefited or-

ganizations such as St. Anthony's Dining Room, Tenderloin Tessie's Senior Lunches and Holiday Din-ners program, the Night Ministry of San Francisco, and the devastating Folsom Street fires in the 1970s. His more recent fundraising efforts continued to be for the Night Ministry and Continuum, which provides day services for people living with AIDS. He also assisted at many charity benefits by being an auctioneer, selling raf-fle tickets, or being in charge of the money. His annual St. Patrick's Day party continues to raise thousands of dollars for charity and will go on in his memory, friends

will go on in his memory, friends said.

Sunday's memorial starts at 3 p.m. Most Holy Redeemer is located at 100 Diamond Street. Monarchs of the Imperial Family are requested to wear state funeral attire; crowns and gowns for the ledies and military e. 6 ll powers. al attire; crowns and gowns for the ladies and military or full mourning dress for gentleman. For more information, contact HIM Emperor XVI Steven Rascher at (415) 626-0732 or HIM Empress XXXV Suzie Wong at (415) 586-5268. ▼

OutRight

caring, cooperation, and commit-ment. This ethic provides those most disadvantaged, those who are farthest from the center of power and acceptance in society, with an additional layer of comfort and se-curity in life. The power to pool resources – augmented by marriage – is just not as vital to the privileged.

Allowed to wed, gay women have access to health care, tax breaks, and Social Security benefits they would not have on their own. The better physical, emotional, and financial health enjoyed by married couples (as com-pared to unmarried cohabitants or singles) is finally available to them. Women, whose desire for variety in sexual partners is on average lower than men's, also fit more

omfortably with the social expec-

tations of monogamy in marriage.

Then there's the fact that gay women are more likely than gay men to have children. Esther Rothblum, a psychology professor at the University of Vermont and editor of the national Journal of Lesbian Studies, hypothesizes that "the relationship with the children is more important" for women and that this might explain the gap. The legal benefits attached to marriage assist in raising those children.

assist in raising those children.

This is not to say that gay men get nothing from marriage; marriage provides them with the many benefits, including companionship and social support, that everyone else gets. It's only to say that their need for it, to the extent they are really "closer to the norm." they are really "closer to the norm or to power in this country," may be smaller than for gay women. So the abstract talk about mar-

riage not being "relevant" to women's lives, and the hysterical fears that it will "erase lesbianism," seem pretty far afield from the preferences and concerns of actu-al women. Those women appear to think marriage is very importo think marriage is very impor-tant in their lives. And I doubt they see themselves as any less "lesbian" for wanting legal and so-cial recognition of their commit-ment to one another.

ment to one another.

Ettelbrick, for her part, has backed away from her opposition to gay marriage. But others on the feminist gay left cling to their discredited theories. Those gay patriarchs like Sullivan and Rauch, it turns out, have been working for women's rights all along. women's rights all along.

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.







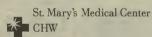


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Life cyclist

hy Jim Provenzano

he battle of the AIDS rides

has settled into two some-what competing events, with different recipients and organizers. From May 13-19, the AIDS/LifeCycle will bring cyclists, volunteers, and donors to support HIV/AIDS services. The event will span nearly 600 miles through California from San Francis-co to Los Angeles

California from San Francis-co to Los Angeles. The event was orga-nized after the Los Ange-les Gay and Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation canceled their annual contract with the forannual contract with t profit Pallotta Team-works company, which has long been accused of taking huge profits while ride events lost money. **Sports**

events lost money.

In an effort to stop AIDS/LifeCy-de, PTW sued the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center and SFAF to stop them from proceeding. The charities denounced Pallotta's legal threats, describing them as "merildess."

Despite the divisiveness and confusion, the two rides may both make money. The internal organization of the new ride will ensure that, while not making the previous millions, at least none of it ous millions, at least none of it

ous millions, at least none of it goes to the secretive and criticized Pallotta Teamworks.

One rider who has signed up for LifeCycle is Benjamin Patter-son. Patterson said he wanted to participate for one reason: "Be-cause it isn't run by Pallotta."

A technical writer for Levi-Strauss, Patterson was born in Oakland, and turned 40 this year.

"I've never been on a big ride before. I guess this is part of my midlife crisis," he laughed. Like many gay kids, as a teen Patterson avoided the traumas of

Patterson avoided the traumas of sports. In his adult life, he became more athletic through jogging, biking, and yoga. A self-described "skinny boy" for most of his school life, his family underwent a shift from liberalism to Mormonism. They left the Bay Area for Wyoming.

A graduate of the University of Utah at Salt Lake City, Patterson has a degree in Middle Eastern studies a degree in Middle Eastern studies with an emphasis in Arabic. After returning to California, Patterson got an MBA from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

"Salt Lake City is quite an in-teresting town of varying ex-tremes," he said, "with quite a sub-culture of decadence as a reaction to the Mormon Church."

An avid bike rider for more

than 10 years, Pat-terson said: "When the AIDS Ride came

along, I was mildly interest ed, but it seemed very elitist.
I didn't know the details and
the for-profit margins. It
seemed less about
AIDS and more about

motivational

motivational challenges, and the opportunity to present a glitzy finish line to bring in celebrities and give them credit for showing up.

"It was easier than dealing with the actual issue of AIDS. It's easier to say, 'Oh, these people rode their bikes for a cause.' They never talk about AIDS itself.
"I want to support the SFAF for

"I want to support the SFAF for cutting this off. They may not raise the millions this first year, but it cer-tainly is the right thing to do. They were making some money and it was a popular event. It was risky to cut ties with Pallotta. It showed that

cut ties with Pallotta. It showed that they had some principles."
Patterson said he still has a hard time explaining the difference between the rides. Getting donors is also more difficult.
"A lot of people have told me they would sponsor me, but the economy is so bad. It may be a problem. People who a year or two ago could give \$150, this year give \$25." Yet, Patterson is determined to make the required minimum of \$2,500.

Before the serious training

Before the serious training began, Patterson would casually ride 20 miles around Golden Gate Park or Lake Merced on a week-end. Now, he's participating in the official training rides; 45-75 mile routes through Marin County. To anticipate the ride's need for



Wheely gueer: Benjamin Patterson

a good bike, he bought a Bianchi, the sporty Italian racing brand of bike (not the funky commuting

bike in the photo).

Despite criticism of the ESTlike nature of the rides, Patterson sees some admirable connection to this sort of event, and how raising money for the AIDS founda-tion will support some of its less clinically-focused outreach efforts

clinically-focused outreach efforts.

"There's a whole connection
between the psychology of how
AIDS has effected the psyche of gay
men; living with death, sex, dating,
trust, and all those things, not to
mention being stigmatized because
of disease." He agrees that long bike
vides case, by inspiritional on

of disease. Fre agrees that long one rides can be inspirational. "The motion – our bodies are created to move. There's a great sense of euphoria you feel when you physically push yourself. It can realsense of eupnoria you feel when you physically push yourself. It can really open up your heart and release a lot of emotions. When you're sharing this experience with a lot of gaymen, there's an opportunity for it to be a really healing experience. However, you have to feel like you're in a safe and trustworthy environment for this to work. This is why I'm really excited about the ride. I feel like I can really trust the people who have organized it."

To support Patterson, go to the AIDS LifeCycle Web site and fill in his name and participant number (#4758) and the donation amount. For more info on supporting other riders, visit www.aidslifecycle.org/ or call 1-866-BIKE-4-AIDS.

To read my seven-part 1999 in-

To read my seven-part 1999 investigative report on the Pallotta rides, visit www.sportscomplex.

Nancy Boy

◄ page 12

thing like that balance in them."
With prodding from Roos to take the homegrown hobby into a corporate venture, the two men soon found themselves searching

soon found themselves searching for help in making the products pharmaceutical-grade.

Ultimately they would partner with family-owned Libby Labs, a Berkeley institution since the 1940s, and the only top-rated pharmaceutical-grade lab in the Western U.S. Libby had helped

launch the Body Shop years earlier.
So with products ready for sale, the two launched their Web site last September and handed out shampoo samples at the Castro Street Fair. Word soon spread, and nancy boys from across the United States soon were sending in their orders.

"We were surprised to see that

after five to six months in business we had done what we expected to do in a year," said Og-gero. "That is why we felt we had the latitude in opening the store." And they wanted control of their company's brand image. Re-

tailers in Chicago and Atlanta began sending word they wanted Nancy Boy for their own shelves. Even more importantly, cus-tomers could not interact with

the product online, or ask questions of Oggero and Roos.

"Online you can't open a bot-tle and smell the product," said Roos. "People need to smell it. People need to see what the bottle looks like."

In two weeks, nancy boys will be able to do just that.
For more information about

the company, visit www.nancy boy.com. ▼

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Nightlife

■ page 1

most famous venue. This summer a vacuum in venue space will ap-pear when Club Townsend, host to many of the city's largest gay parties, will close.

parties, will close.
Venerable weekly events such as Pleasuredome, the city's longest running dance club, and Club Universe, the West Coast's largest gay party, will throw their last dances the weekend of July 7. Smaller events like Sundance Saloon, Futura, and Club Asia, all held in the club's King Street Garage, will also turn on the lights for the last time in that space.

Garage, win also turn on the lights for the last time in that space. The building has been sold to a developer who has plans to turn the space into offices and condo-miniums, so club owner Audrey Joseph will pack up Club Univer and take it on the road.

The sound equipment has already been sold to Glikshtern who hopes to turn a vacant warehouse in Dogpatch, a little-known part of the city, into one of the city's newest hot spots. One weekend night would be promoted to gay groovers.

groovers.

"Gay and straight there is no new product out there. How long has Universe been going along? Even the parties Gus has been doing, he has been doing for years," said Glikshtern, who submitted final plans this week to the city for his proposed club at 2225. city for his proposed club at 2225 Third Street between 19th and 20th streets. "Not to say they are bad. They obviously have some-thing going for them. But it is nice to get a new infusion of blood and

a new space."

If he can win over neighborhood residents who already have voiced opposition to the club, he said he plans to have the opening night sometime in late July or Aunight sometime in late July or August. While he would like to have Universe resident DJ David Harness throw down the tunes one night a week, Glikshtern said nothing has been finalized.

"I would very much like David to do that. I want him involved somehow because he is phenomenal," said Glikshtern, who began his career in clubs working for

Bean.

"I owe Gus a big debt. In buying his space on Barneveld and making Barneveld a viable venue, he has opened a door for me," he added. "People are now aware there is a different part of the city and feel safe going there to party."

there is a different part of the city and feel safe going there to party." Bean said he also has plans to open a new weekly party but would not divulge any details about its location. He did say he plans to throw his first party July 13, one week after Universe bids adjen

adieu.

"I cannot announce where yet, but I will announce it in three weeks. It will have several different rooms and floors," said Bean.

It will also swing the pendulum back to San Francisco's more decadent disco days, he promised.
"I am going to definitely swing it back to glamour, mixing of crowds and have a real VIP room. It used to be club kids and drag.

It used to be club kids and drag queens would be mixing very well with muscle boys. You don't see that anymore," said Bean, who also owns the Retreat Resort and

also owns the Retreat Resort and Spa in Guerneville and the club space at 550 Barneveld.

"I am not going to sell myself short by only providing a circuit style of entertainment. I am going to toss an interesting salad," he said. "I am going to really provide clubrones with a mazing produce." clubgoers with amazing productions and talent. I want to have a lot of noted national DJs coming

lot of noted national DJs coming in every couple weeks."
And he has offered his Barneveld space to the parties that will be left homeless by Townsend's closure. The Sundance Saloon will move its Sunday party there July 7.
"We are looking forward to it. This space suits our needs very well," said Ingu Yun, president of the Sundance Association. "The dance floor area is larger than

what we have now."

It is not only over-21 partiers who will be dancing in new

For the first time in years, the place to groove on weekends. Since March 23, younger gay guys have been partying at Thick on Saturday nights at Alan's Club

Other parties will also be makother parties will also be making returns or appearing in coming months. This Sunday marks the return of Epicenter at Club NV at 525 Howard Street between 1st and 2nd streets.

In September, Michael Garrett is playing to host the grand re-

is planning to host the grand re-opening for one night of the I-Beam on Haight Street for the

never-held closing party.
"It was the city's premier gay club in the early 1980s," said Garrett who was the club's resident DJ.

DJ.

Keeping track of all the new events and club happenings will be Gloss magazine, launched in March by Bevin Shamel, a former editor of the party rag Odyssey.

"We are going to have a good summer. There are a lot of new clubs going on that people don."

clubs going on that people don't really know about yet," said Shamel, who based his new publi-

cation on H/X, a magazine covering New York's gay club life.

Gloss is also helping to promote new parties not only in the city, but on the Peninsula as well. Its launch party took place this week in Sunnyvale and Gloss is promoting another party in two weeks at Ruby Skye. To ensure the new energy fo-

cused on nightlife does not sput-ter out, Alan said the city needs to

ter out, Alan said the city needs to reform its permit process.

"We need to put the marketing and permitting of entertainment into civilian hands," he said.

"Mark Leno is giving us a fresh look and has come up with what appears to be a brilliant plan to jump-start our economy around entertainment."

the law was constitutional in that it was not overbroad or too vague.

EGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.255833
The following person(s) are doing business as: Yoga San Francisco, 2269 (Cap 4122 This business is conducted by an co-partners signed Nancy Giftos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business number above listed fictitious business name or with the Gity and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 30x08/2002. on 03/08/2002. MAR. 28, APR 4, 11, 18 2002

IN ONE OSCILLATION OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540195 In the Matter of the Application of Samuel Solomon Kraut for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Samuel Solomon Kraut has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Samuel Solomon Campbell. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and intercted, that all persons interseted in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of May, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.255951

STATEMENT FILE NO.255951 STATEMENT FILE NU.259593. The following person(s) are doing business as: Night Crawler Production, 54 Chicago Way, 5F, Ca 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony Gailleo. The registran(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 31/2/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 031/2/2021. 03/12/2002. MAR. 28, APR 4, 11, 18 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256267 STALEMENT FILE NO. 255267
The following person(s) are doing business as: Victor's Lighting 2166 Palou Avenue, SF, Ca 94124. This business is conducted by a coporation signed Richard Stoppolari The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/25/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/25/2022. 03/25/2002. MAR. 28, APR 4, 11, 18 2002

The statement of the above is the statement of the above is the following person(s) are doing business as: DPM Tutoring 1500 Noriega Street # 110 SF, Ca 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Moy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flictitious business name or names on 3/25/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/25/2002. 03/25/2002. MAR. 28, APR 4, 11, 18 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256301 THALEMENT FILE NO.256301
The following person(s) are doing business as: Better Building, 1578 Innes Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Greg Freeman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flictitious business name or names on 8706/98. The statement was filled with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 0326/2002. 03/26/2002. APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

The following person(s) are doing business as: it ab Enterprises. 1519 Oak Street #7, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason Albert Daniel Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/27/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. pp. 13/27/2002 Ca. on 03/27/2002. APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256394 STATEMENT FILE NO. 256394
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lee Van General Home Repair. 47 Rey Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nguyen Van Le. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/26/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/2002.

APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

APK 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002
STATEMENT FILE NO. 256373
The following person(s) are doing business as:Spitfire Rose. 1790 San Jose Awes San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Reaenn Biagnin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/2002. APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256245 STATEMENT FILE NO.256245
The following person(s) are doing business as: Nicole Renee. 1825 Pine Street #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nicole R. Mossman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/22/2002. APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256358 STATEMENT FILE. NO.256358 The following person(s) are doing busines as: Anton Meeting Management. 101. Madrone Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Steven Anton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flictitious business name or names on 6/13/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/27/2002. 03/27/2002. APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256357 The following person(s) are doing business as: Regents Cab Company. 1301 Sixth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Steven Anton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/13/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 0/3/7/2002 Ca. on 03/27/2002. APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

APR 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COLINTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540201

In the Matter of the Application of Joseph Michael Endsley. For change of Name. The application of Joseph Michael Endsley for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Joseph Michael Endsley has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ashiar Ossian Trystan. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of May, 2002 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540196
In the Matter of the Application of Karen Ruth Shore. For change of Name. The application of Karen Ruth Shore for change of name, having been filed in Court and It appearing from said application that Karen Ruth Shore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Karyn Ruth Shore Campbell. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of May, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540180 in the Matter of the Application of Robert Joseph Michalczyk. For change of Name. The application of Robert Joseph Michalczyk for change of name, having been filled in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robert Joseph Michalczyk has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Robert Theodore Behr. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May, 2002 at 9900am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. change of name should not be gr APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540212 FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540212 In the Matter of the Application of Margaret Hurst Kennerly, For change of Name. The application of Margaret Hurst Kennerly for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Margaret Hurst Kennerly has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Margaret Hurst Cliver. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of June, 2002 at 97.00.3m., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. should not be granted.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.255782 STATEMENT FILE NU.255782
The following person(s) are doing business as: Racing Garage, 11.18 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Eric Koon Chan and Jeffrey Ming Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/06/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/2002. 03/03/2002. APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fleur't. 2550 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94135. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jonathan Rachman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or names on 47.5502. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04.055/202. 04/05/2002. APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

Child porn law

◄ page 1

sexually explicit conduct," the Justice Department told the Supreme Court in a brief. In the 1996 Child Court in a brief. In the 1996 Child Pornography Prevention Act, however, Congress amended the law to include images of a child who "appears to be" engaging in sexual conduct, or images that "convey the impression" of child sex, regardless of whether real children were involved in the prochildren were involved in the pro-duction. The act bans the know-ing possession, receipt, reproduction, sale, transmission, or shipment of child pornography

The 1996 act also listed 13 congressional "findings" to underpin the law, including these: That child pornography is used to seduce other children into sexual acduce other children into sexual activity; that it is used to "whet the appetites" of pedophiles; and that advancing technology might make it impossible to distinguish between photographic and computer-generated images of children having sex.

After President Clinton signed the act into law, the Free Speech

the act into law, the Free Speech Coalition – a trade association dealing in adult-oriented materi-als – and other plaintiffs in North-ern California challenged it in court. A federal judge ruled that

it was not overbroad or too vague. A federal appeals court panel reversed the judge, ruling that the "phrases 'appears to be a minor,' and 'convey(s) the impression' that the depiction portrays a minor, are vague and overbroad" in the law "and thus do not meet the requirements of the First Amendment." The Justice Department then asked the Supreme ment then asked the Supreme ment then asked the Supreme Court to intervene. The justices heard argument in the case October 30. Tuesday's ruling affirms the lower-court decision, striking down the federal law. (The case is No. 00-795, Ashcroft et al v. The Free Speech Coalition et al.)

Transmissions

◄ page 10

hop down to your local bookstore and grab a book or two on the subject. I'm partial to the Kate Bornstein and Leslie Feinberg books, but you shouldn't feel limited to only these: unless we're talking about Janice Raymond's The Transsexual Empire or it's progeny, then you're unlikely to find anything that is horribly misleading.

Of course, if you've read this far, it is likely that you have more than a passing knowledge of transgendered issues. It may be more difficult for you. Rather than studying the basics, look for something that directly challenges your own world view of what transgendered means. If you are from the so-called old school – say

a heterosexual crossdresser, or a "woodworked" transsexual – then read Riki Wilchins's book, *Read* My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender, or a text or two on drag. Conversely, if you are a modern-day genderqueer fighting against an oppressive gender sys-tem, then consider picking up something as seemingly opposite as one of Virginia Prince's early 1970s texts of transvestism, or see if you can arrange a visit with a arrange a visit with a transgendered friend of yours who is desiring a more concrete shift from one clear gender to an-other. You may both learn a thing

Not that the only way to learn Not that the only way to learn is by seeking out opposites. One book I've read lately is Charles Anders's *The Lazy Crossdresser*. While it is different from my own path, I can see that many of Anders's views on crossdressing will be seen as heresy amongst many peers. I only hope that some approach it with an open mind, and learn another way of looking at

That is what it is all about. If That is what it is all about. If we don't clear away some of the old deadwood, we cannot continue to grow – and while you may find that you are happy where you are at, can you really be certain without taking a moment to explore your alternatives?

So I hope I have left you this reek with a task. It's time to brush the dust away, clear the cobwebs, and learn something new. ▼

Gwen Smith actually prefers autumn to spring, but will take either over winter. She can be found on the web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) is pleased to announce the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to update portions of the San Francisco Bicycle Plan and undertake. Bicycle Puennet Arrow Study.
The Bicycle Plan Ard very major destination via stress that are designed to be safe and comfortable for all levels of cyclists. The purpose of the Bicycle Pawement Study is to refine the bicycle pawemen arrow design developed by DPT and perform a horrough before and after study to assess the effectiveness of the arrow.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Tuesday, April 23, 2002, while proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2002. For more information please contact: Peter S. Tannen at peter_tannen@ci.af.ca.us or (415) 554-2396

CITY-WIDE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

Contractors and subcontractors are invited to attend and learn about construction contracting opportunities available under the Airport Commission, Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT), Department of Public Works (DPW), MUNI, Port, and San Francisco Dublic Unlites Commission (SFPUC). The Town Hall Meeting is schouled for Monday, April 29, 2002, 1:30 - 4:30 PM, in the Koret Auditorium of the SF Main Library on 100 Larkin St. Please use the entrance on Grove and Markes Streets.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about contracting policies and programs under HRC, Suery Bond, 1st Source Hiring, and Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. For further information, call (415) 554-0773.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA) is requesting qualified Information Technolog
(IT) vendors to submit their proposals to provide the JD Edwards OneWorld Implementation
Phase II consulting services for the Agency's planned upgrade and/or conversion of the Property
Management, Accounts Receivable, Contract Management and Fixed Assets modules.

Interested parties, please contact Kim Pan for a complete RFP package at the following addrn Francisco Redevelopment Agency.
770 Golden Gare Ave., San Francisco CA 94102
Phone: (415) 749-2473

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 25, 2002 at 770 Golden Gate Avenue location.

Completed RFP application along with the required documentation must be received by May 9, 2002.

AUCTION OF TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTIES

The San Francisco Treasurer & Tax Collector announces that an auction of tax-defaulted property will be conducted on Friday, April 26, 2002 at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Public Health Auditorium, 101 Grove Steere, Room 300. An information package, including a list of properties to be offered, is now available for purchase in person at the City Payment Center, City Hall Room 140. Pleas note that there is a registration requirement to bid at the auction—only registered bidders will be allowed to bid. Pre-registration at the cathier's window in City Hall Room 140 starts March 25 and concludes on April 22. A \$1000.00 deposit is required. For more information, please call Dennis Chan at (413) 554-4468, or see the Treasurer & Tax Collector's website at www signoon/grayd-auction.htm

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE NO.256614

STATEMENT FILE NO.256614
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Extles. 174 Chattanoga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership signed Justine Stanis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2002. APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256554 STATEMENT FILE NO.256554
The following person(s) are doing business as: Michael T. Barrett L.AC, 2120 Market Street #1, San Francisco, C. 9, 491.14. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael T. Barrett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/03/2009. Francisco, Ca. on 04/03/2002. APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256603

STATEMENT FILE NO.256603
The following person(s) are doing business as: Suzi's Bloomers. 52 Baltimore Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed E. Sue Kennedy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 3, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2002.

04/04/2002. APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256649 STATEMENT FILE NO.256649
The following person(s) are doing business as: Grand Central Station Antiques. 1632
Market Street #A, San Francisco, Ca.
94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Robert McCartney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 10, 1990. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04,05/2002 APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO: 212583
The following person (persons) have
abandoned the use of the fictitious business
name known as: The Exiles. Located at:
1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, Ca.
94110-4624. The fictitious name referred
to above was filed in the County of San
Francisco on: March 25, 1997.
This business was conducted by:
Unincorporated Association other than a
partnership: Karen L. Kirche partnership: Karen L. Kircher APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256713

STATEMENT FILE 2567.13
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cigalou Cafe. 76.1 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 9410.9. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jalal Heydari. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and Country of San Francisco. Ca. on 04.09/2070. County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/2002 APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540214 In the Matter of the Application of Kathryn Baird Szymanski. For change of Name. The application of Kathryn Baird Szymanski for change of Name, the application of Kathryn Baird Szymanski has filed an application that Kathryn Baird Szymanski has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zakary Kathryn Baird Szymanski in Stephen Szymanski in

APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COLLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COLLIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540216 In the Matter of the Application of Hamidon Bin Hussin for change of Name. The application of Hamidon Bin Hussin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and It appearing from said application that Hamidon Bin Hussin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Kyle Brumlage. Now therfore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256786 THE FILE NO. 256786
The following person(s) are doing business as: Keenan Design. 1366 Hayes Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Anthony Keenan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business sum of the above listed fictitious business name and 1710/22. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/1/1/2002. Ca. on 04/11/2002. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256785

STATEMENT FILE 256785
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Hardwood Floor Complete. 431
Foerster, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed Peter Nguyen. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 4,010.02. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 0,411/2002. Ca. on 04/11/2002. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256725

STATEMENT FILE 256725
The following person(s) are doing business as: Body Manipulations. 3234 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul Stoll. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4,01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04,018/2002 04/08/2002. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256702

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metropolitan Retail Store. 1751 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eduardo Cervera. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. no M/M9/2009. on 04/09/2002. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256769 STATEMENT FILE 256769
The following person(s) are doing business as: BPM Specialist. 1330 Stevenson Street #C306, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roderick P. Respico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitus business under the above listed fictitus business name or names on April 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/10/2002. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO: 224613
The following person (persons) have
abandoned the use of the fictitious business
name known as: Comm Link Plus. Located
at: 1330 Stevenson Street #0306, San
Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name
referred to above was filed in the County of
San Francisco on: July 13, 1998.
This business was conducted by: a
individual: Roderick P. Respicio. APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

LEGAL SERVICES

LAW OFFICES

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JOBS OFFERED

The PositiveHealth Practice at UCSF (PHP-UCSF) has two exciting Job opportunities for the Men Of Color Program (MCOP). These positions are funded through a grant that (MCOP). These positions are funded through a grant that runs through the end of December 2002 with a good possibility of them being renewed.

The Peer Advocate (1998HS) is a 32 hour/week position, M-F. The Peer Advocate will provide outreach as well as direct services to clients. This includes escorting patients to medical appointments, providing practical and emotional support to clients and their families (availability to clients by pager), home visits as needed, and acting as a referral and liaison to community services (medication adherence and substance abuse programs as directed by social worker and case manager)

The Positive Health Practice (PHP) Case Manager (1990HS) is a 20 hour/week position, M-F. You will provide care for HIV+ men of color. Responsibilities include providing comprehensive case management services for clients of the PHP-UCSF including care coordination, intake, development of care plans, counseling, advocacy, referrals, follow-up and documentation. Makes home, jail, and/or hospital visits to clients as needed.

Ideal candidates will have prior experience in HIV care and successful completion of CSTEP training or willingness to complete. Good writing, communication and basic computer skills are needed as well as demonstrated ability to work with clients of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations-and economic status. Should be able to work in a fast-paced hospital and community-based settings Requires ability to participate in clinical supervision and case conferences and to maintain accurate and up-to-date charting and client records and service levels as required by contracts. Bachelor's degree preferred.

UCSF Medical Center is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and minorities are encouraged to apply. Please apply online via our website www.ucsfhealth.org, click on job opportunities and search by the requisition, numbers listed above. Be sure to reference source code NBAR/0402.

Social Worker

San Mateo County seeks a fulltime Social Worker to assist with our AIDS Program by providing case management to patients receiving HIV medical care at the Edison Clinic In San Mateo. As part of a multidiciplinary team, you will conduct assessments and provide on-going case manage ment, including referrals & coordination with communityased HIV service HIV experience preferred.
Call Employee & Public Services
at: 650/363-4343 or apply online at: www.co.sanmateo.ca.us en until filled. Apply immediately. EOE

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Please fax resume attn: HR to 415.441.1174

Caregivers wanted for elderly care \$10-\$11 an hour. Live in and hourly available. Car is a plus. Call David at 415-273-1497. CNA's & HHA's

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for independent film. If you are a real porn star and would like to be in an independent film, please contact David at 831-402-0269. No nudity or sex required. Good pay.

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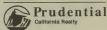
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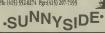
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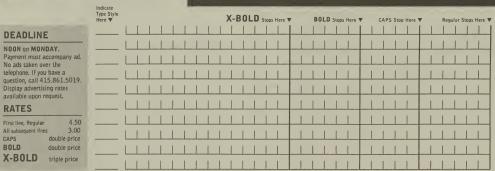
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SYPHILIS AT A GLANCE

In June 1999, the San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) Annual 1998 STD Summary showed the lowest number of gay/bisexual male syphilis cases in San Francisco history. In August 1999, an outbreak of syphilis among gay male AOL chatroom users were identified, and an outbreak response was initiated by STD Prevention & Control Services.

Fall 1999

- SF Syphilis rapid response team meets bi-weekly.
- · Community forum on STDs for gay and bisexual men.
- · Community awareness begins with coverage in local newspapers, ads and syphilis alert letters sent to SF providers.

Winter 1999

· Community agency partner attends statewide syphilis meeting.

Winter 2000

• Letter of collaboration signed with adult bookstores in SF.

Spring 2000

• Live, interactive STD lectures begun on Planet Out and Gay.com

Summer 2000

• Syphilis Internet paper appears in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA).

Fall 2000

- Centers for Disease Prevention & Control (CDC) launches National Syphilis Elimination Plan.
- Syphilis cases continue to increase in SF.
- · Meet with key community leaders to discuss increase.
- Dr. Klausner presents to the Bay Area Community HIV Prevention Planning Council re: STD increases

Winter 2000

• AOL rebuffs San Francisco's request for chatroom education and outreach.

Winter 2001

• Collaborations begun with UCSF AIDS Health Project, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Stop AIDS Project, St. James Infirmary and SF AIDS Office.

Spring 2001

- Syphilis cases double; increase in reported cases associated with commercial sex establishments.
- Meet with key community leaders to discuss action plan.
- Collaboration with sex clubs begins, pledges signed by owners. Guidelines for commercial sex establishments revised and posted in sex clubs and signage posted in back rooms of adult bookstores.
- Meeting with State to discuss Steamworks Bathhouse and its relationship to syphilis increases in SF.
- AIDS Office Neighborhood Health on Wheels (NHOW) van begins offering routine STD testing.

Summer 2001

- CDC EIS Officer arrives in San Francisco to evaluate syphilis surveillance and disease epidemiology.
- STD/HIV Units publish "Reading This May Save Your Ass" for Gay Pride.
- Dr. Klausner conducts Grand Rounds at SFGH on "Syphilis and the Internet".

Fall 2001

- Meet with sex club owners.
- Meet with key community leaders to discuss increase.
- Press release highlights increases in syphilis and intensifies Syphilis Awareness campaign.
- San Francisco STD Monthly Report alerts private medical doctor's about rise in syphilis, recommends twice-yearly screening.

Winter 2001

• Better World Advertising implements a syphilis awareness campaign.

Winter 2002

- SFDPH requests sex clubs and adult bookstores to inform each and every patron re: syphilis increases and to observe operations guidelines for commercial sex establishments.
- Letters sent to providers, in particular HIV care providers, Kaiser and Brown & Toland Medical Group. Meeting with key community leaders to discuss rise in syphilis.
- Internet Sexuality Information Services, Inc. (ISIS) was funded to provide online syphilis awareness and education.
- SFDPH reports to Food & Drug Administration (FDA) about the association of recent syphilis cases and Viagra use.

Spring 2002

- "Spring Cleaning" campaign kick off for STD Awareness month in collaboration with Castroguys, AIDS Health Project, NHOW van and local merchants to conduct STD screening during evenings, nights and weekends in the Castro and South of Market.
- · Bi-weekly syphilis awareness ads in local newspaper

Opera as a queer and present danger Fond farewell, 'parterre box' in print; hello again, Mawrdew Czgowchwz!

Richard Rodgers toasted His 100th celebrated by SFPALM exhibit, events.

page 30



Really big shows 'Producers,' 'Tale of the Allergist's Wife' coming. page 31



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A pool scene from the Japanese all-boys synchronized swimming comedy Waterboys

en recommended offerings from the 45th San Francisco International Film Festival, April 18 to May 2 at various venues:

One of the most heartfelt films at the festival, this low-key Spanish feature by Achero Manas explores the friendship between two 12-year-old boys against the backdrop of their dramatically different home lives. Pablo (young TV star Juan Jose Ballesta, alternately mischievous and stoic) is regularly

beaten by his sullen shopkeeper father, Mariano (Manuel Moron), as a kind of misplaced grief after the death of Pablo's brother. A classmate, Alfredo (newcomer Pablo Galan), suddenly offers friendship and the shelter of his more loving and quite openly gay family. Pablo and Alfredo play hooky, obsess over tattoos created by Alfredo's father Jose (Alberto Jimenez), and get a sobering view of adult life through the AIDS death of Jose's friend. A thoughtful tearjerker underscoring the family origins of child abuse — that battered kids need a sub-

stitute for love lost and trust betrayed. (Kab, 4/20 & 22; PFA, 4/23)

Leche (the sexy Daniel Hendler) has this theory about luck: good luck is when two buses on the same route pass in front of you going in opposite directions, bad luck is stepping in dog shit. Leche and his equally hapless buddies Javi (Jorge Temponi) and Seba (Alfonso Tort) specialize in the lat-

page 29

Dirk Shafer connects with 'Circuit'

by Robert Julian

irector Dirk Shafer's opening montage for Circuit, opening Wednesday, April 24, at the Castro Theatre, begins with a moment that recalls Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. Hitch ended his famous Hitchcock's Psycho. Hitch ended his famous shower scene with the camera pulling back from an extreme closeup of dead Janet Leigh's glassy eyeball, as she lies face down in the bathtub. Shafer gives us an extreme close-up of the nicely proportioned face of hunky John (Jonathan Wade Drahos) as he wakes up, check-to-ceramic tile, on the floor of a filthy restroom stall. The message is clear: It's going to be one of those parties. Cutting immediately to the recent past, the first real scene of Circuit shows John being politely shown the door by his supervisor. It is apparent to the officer in charge that John's job as a small-town cop is not compatible with his homosexuality; no one on the police force is willing to be his partner. Maybe he should move on to a larger

venue. Faster than you can say "friend of Dorothy," John is tooling down Santa Mon-ica Boulevard with all his possessions in his

Dorothy," John is tooling down Santa Monica Boulevard with all his possessions in his car, heading for the Los Angeles home of his gay cousin, Tad (Daniel Kukan).

Tad is a documentary filmmaker making a movie on the circuit party phenomenon, while breaking up with his live-in lover Gill (Brian L. Green). Tad has moved in his new DJ boyfriend, and the threesome do not make a happy household. Soon after John's arrival, the boys find him a small trailer home, parked improbably on its own lot in the Hollywood Hills. From this picturesque location, the naive and inexperienced John begins his descent from trailer to trash, with the able assistance of a buff, tattooed hustler named Hector (Andre Khabbazi).

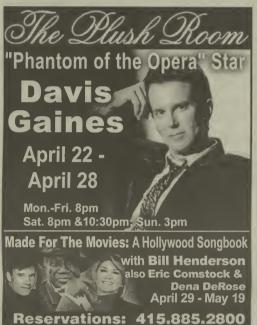
Although reticent at first, John starts hitting the party circuit with Hector, assisted by Hector's personal pharmacopia of street drugs: GHB, Special K, speed, and injections of steroids to get that perfect pump at the gym. John runs into his old girlfriend Nina (Kiersten Warren), who becomes his Los page 33

page 33













D.P. Jonathan Mellinger at camera, director Milford Thomas, and Sister Missionary Position DeLight in Claire.

by Roberto Friedman and Malty Bore

ay you were going to mount a Broadway musical based on Hairspray, the film by John Waters. Since you can no longer cast the massive but dearly departed talent Divine as Baltideparted talent **Divine** as Baltimore broad **Tracy Turnblad**'s mother **Edna**, whom would you choose for that pivotal role? Edna, a terror in a beehive, is given the movie's immortal line, "My diet pills are wearing off!"

Waters wanted no less a figure than **Sir Anthony "Kidneys"n**' **Favas" Hopkins** in drag, according to the *New Yorker*, but settled

ing to the New Yorker, but settled for the producers' choice, gravel-voiced Torch Song Trilogy play-wright and actor Harvey Fier-stein. The more we think about that casting coup, the more it makes sense. (The actress Marissa Jaret Winokur is cast as Tracy, played by Ricki Lake in the film.)

Fierstein has a busy, busty year

coming up, because in addition to his star turn in H'spray at B'way's Neil Simon Theatre, opening this summer, his first children's book, The Sissy Duckling, comes out in May from Simon & Schuster. He'll be doing press up the wazoo, so more on that later from Out

There.
Elsewhere on the Waters front, Elsewhere on the Waters front, it looks like there's been a falling out between the filmmaker and at least one of his early corps of players. The publicist for that Connie Marble of Pink Flamingos, cult actress Mink Stole, fired off a fax when it became clear that Waters' entourage to the Newport Beach Film Fest last weekend would include the entire cast and crew of Polyester except

would include the entire of and crew of *Polyester* except for Miss Stole.

Come to think of it, last year's DVD release of *Female Trouble* was also quite Minkless in the bonus footage, though she was cast as Taffy Davenport in that film. She was Peggy Gravel in Desperate Living, Dottie Hinkle in

Serial Mom, and Stole says through her press agent "she has no idea" why she got the cold shoulder.

So where in the world is Stole going to summer? Nowhere else but right here in our little foggy burg, where she will be appearing with MTV's Real World alum Dan with MTV's Real World alum Dan Renzi and SF nun Sister Roma in Sleeping with Straight Men, the new offering from non-lesbian playwright Ronnie Larsen com-ing to the Rhino Studio June 14. See how the whole item finally comes together in the horse's pa-

While we're on the subject of subversive filmmakers and their merry bands of players, we'll share this nugget from our overflowing mailbag: "A minor correction regarding Gary Morris' othwarnol's Chelsea Girls ('Beautiful losers,' April 11]. Nico's demise was not a suicide, but in fact came about from a brain hemorrhage about from a orall neutrinage caused by her having fallen off a bicycle in Ibiza, in 1988. You're welcome. [signed] ML Heath, San Francisco."

Thank you, Mr. Heath, Out There stands corrected. We'd sit, but we're still sore from the spanking.

Claire de lune

With the 45th SF International Film Fest opening tonight (Apr. 18) with Thirteen Conversations About One Thing at the Castro Theatre, it sure looks like spring film fest season is upon the Gay Area once again, and OT can't hide our excitement.

Now we're knee-deep in SFIFF streenings but we're already looks streenings but we're already looks streenings but we're already looks. With the 45th SF Internation-

screenings, but we're already looking ahead to the 26th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, which has an extended run this year from June 13-30. The 2002 Frameline Award will be presented to filmmaker Isaac Julien, and there'll be a retrospective of his films (Looking For Langston, Young Soul Rebels). Some titles to anticipate include Stanley Kwan's Lan Yu, Lauren Himmel's Treading Water and Everett Lewis' Luster. Full ad-vance coverage to come;

in the meantime, we've heard some charming buzz about a blackand-white silent film shot entirely with an antique hand-cranked

> Claire, the creation Atlanta filmmaker
> Milford Thomas,
> stars Sister Missionary Position
> DeLight, one of

the founders of the Sisters of Per-petual Indulgence. It's a re-telling petual Indulgence. It's a re-telling of the Japanese fairy tale Kaguyahime, in which a childless couple ask the moon for a child and are given the gift of a daughter made from moonlight. In Thomas' version, the couple is elderly and male, and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the rural '20s South. Mish and felevant and the setting is the setting in the setting in the setting in the setting is the setting in the setting in the setting in the setting is the setting in the setting is the setting in the settin

the rural '20s South. Mish and fel-low player James Ferguson adopt the girl from the moon. Thomas told OT, "We'll be pre-senting the film at the Frameline Fest with a live 11-piece version of the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, based in SF. The composer Anne Richardson and I will be

in attendance, with Anne con-ducting the film's original score."

The photo shows Mish on lo-cation in Tennessee, with director Thomas (shaved head) and director of photography Jonathan Mellinger behind the hand-cranked Mitchell Standard cam-

Bathroom break

What can you possibly say about a major daily entertainment section whose idea of a credible feature is a long thumbway around theatre lobbies?
"Knowing the path to the rest rooms is key!" writes the Comical scribe who shall remain nameless as a small act of mercy. "Even the most lovable lobbies can falter when it comes to the quantity and accessibility of rest rooms. For orchestra-level patrons at the Curran Theatre, think right for rest rooms. Entrance to the men's facouns. Entrance to the men's fa-cilities is in the far right corner of the lobby closest to the street. Move quickly!" Just tell us which urinal the Little Man recom-mends.

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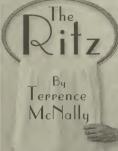


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Schoolboys in love

'Shakespeare's R&J' revisits Romeo et al.

by Richard Dodds

fter the original director pulled out and Joe Calarco was handed the job of directing an all-male production of Romeo and Juliet, he set out to defy expectations.

"Being a gay man, I just knew what people would expect I would do with it," Calarco said recently from New York. "They're going to expect me to do something either floridly homoerotic or something ultra-political. I wanted to avoid that trap.

that trap."

Calarco created his own adaptation of the love story, billed as Shakespeare's R&J, and it became a major off-Broadway hit a few years ago. The New York Times found that "it pulsates with an adolescent abandon and electricity of which

electricity of which Romeo himself might

The play is just now getting its first Bay Area production, at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, and Calarco has been a helpful source for local di-**Backstage** rector George

rector George
Maguire. Maguire
also flew to New York to view a
private video recording of the
original production.
It's a virtual necessity, according to Calarco. "I don't know how,
if you just had the script, you'd
have any sense of what the hell
was going on."

is going on."
The first words in Shake-The first words in Shake-speare's Romeo and Juliet are, "Two households, both alike in dignity." In Shakespeare's R&J, the first words are, "In the name of the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen." They are spoken by four schoolboys in matching parochial school uniforms who begin acting out Romeo and Juliet as an essame

school uniforms who begin acting out Romeo and Juliet as an escape from their regimented days. Before long, they are swept up into the story in unexpected ways.

"I said to my cast when we started, 'You don't have to try to be homoerotic, because it already is. And it absolutely is going to raise issues of homophobia, because you have a boy having to play a love scene with another boy, with other boys watching, so there is going to be some response. I just felt it didn't need to be commented on."

Calarco, now in his early 30s, was out by 15 in his native Rochester. "It was a very easy place to be gay because there's such a large gay population," he

such a large gay population," he said. "There are so many gay bars in Rochester, it's shocking."

As for the characters in R&J, we never learn if any of them are actually gay. "It really doesn't matter to



Playwright Joe Calarco: passion

me," he said. "I just think in the mo-

me, he said. "I just think in the moment of it they are being swept up into eroticism and passion and love."

While their lives might be changed, Calarco's life definitely changed after Shakespeare's R&J.

Best of all, he was able to quit his job working the front desk of the Carlyle Hotel to devote

Carlyle Hotel to devote full time to writing and directing. His upcom-ing projects include a biographical musical

for Ben Vereen and a play about seven strangers whose lives intersect in New York after a

New York after a terrorist bombing.
"I actually started writing this play seven years ago," Calarco said of In the Absence of Spring. "It will be interesting to see how it's taken now."
Shakespeare's R&J will run April 24-June 29 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Call 861-8972 for ticket info.

Think Thick

Two of the best-received new works of the past year are taking turns at the Thick House. Adam Bock's grand comedy Five Flights will have final holdover performances this weekend. It must close to make way for a return engagement of yet another success.

gagement of yet another success.

Io, Princess of Argos, a contemporary musical retelling of the Greek legend, is back after a well-received run last year at Exit's Stage Left. The Thick House run begins April 27 and ends May 19—just in time to make way for the May 21 reopening of Five Flights.

Either show should hold rewards for those who haven't yet checked out Thick House. It's a comfortable theater at the end of

comfortable theater at the end of a group of contemporary loft units in a quiet corner of Potrero Hill (with lots of easy street park-ing!) Tickets to both shows are ailable at 401-8081

Made from pulp

A return engagement for another recent comedy hit also comes as good news. Lavender

Lockeroom reopens in Theatre Rhino's Studio for eight performances beginning April 25, and it's a second chance to catch this very, very funny send-up of the style of gay pulp fiction that would soon give way to considerably more graphic material.

This is the third (and best) in a series for the Hot Pants Homo Players that includes Hot Pants

Players that includes Hot Pants Homo and Senator Swish. F. Allen Sawyer is the writer-director of this purple tale of a gay teen's wet dream come to life. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

Kushner's 'Kabul'

The timeliness of Tony Kushner's Homebody/Kabul, written well before Sept. 11, has been widely noted. Berkeley Rep also had announced the latest play by the author of Angels in America before Afghanistan became front-page news. But that timeliness is paying off at the box office: The scheduled off at the box office: The scheduled seven-week run has been extended for two weeks even before the play's

official opening on April 24.

The homebody of the title is a bored, intellectual English woman who looks for escape in the exotic world of Afghanistan. Her disappearance prompts a search by her husband and daughter, who are unprepared for the adventures that await them. Politics, reality, and truth all become negotiable components as cultures collide in

and truth an become negotiate components as cultures collide in the three-hour-plus play.

Berkeley Rep artistic director Tony Taccone is directing a new production of the play first staged in New York last December. Rep regular Michelle Morain is playing the homebody, and Charles Shaw Robinson and Heidi Dippold are playing her husband and daughter.

A "night/OUT" performance for LGBT audiences is set for April 25, with a pre-show reception prior to the 8 p.m. curtain. For more information, call (510) 647-2918, or the box office at (510) 647-2949.

Short scenes

• TheatreWorks is holding a Spring Festival of New Works that includes a workshop production of a new musical based on Willa Cather's My Antonia. Songs are by Cather's My Antonia. Songs are by Stephen Schwartz, who wrote the scores for Pippin and Godspell. Performances are on May 1 and 5 at the Mountain View Center Second Stage. Call (650) 903-6000.

- Karen Williams, the notable lesbian comedian and social satirist, is the headliner in a comedy show being spongared by

edy show being sponsored by Theatre Rhino. San Francisco's own Dan Rothenberg will also be onstage at the Victoria Theatre, where performances take place on April 19 and 20. Call 861-5079.







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The Chronicle CLASSICAL francisco





Blomstedt stumbles

Conductor Laureate returns to Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

erbert Blomstedt is back in town. Music Director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Conductor Laure-Orchestra and Conductor Laure-ate of the San Francisco Sympho-ny (he served as Music Director here for 10 years), Papa Blomstedt returns annually to conduct his old colleagues in repertoire close to his heart.

to his heart.

The visits are every bit as predictable as his decade at Davies Hall. The past two weeks have brought a full evening of Bruckners, some lighter Mozart and one of Danish composer Carl Nielsen's quirkiest symphonies. Oddly, the highlight of the concrets so far has been a stimulating. certs so far has been a stimulating presentation of Bartok's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Christian

In the third and final week of his current engagement, Blomst-edt will feature more Mozart, a Haydn Symphony and Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Jonathan Biss. Nothing too earthshaking, but good solid programming presented with the fatherly conductor's meticulous

attention to detail.

It has been more than six years It has been more than six years since he left, after a tenure that put the orchestra on the international map. His most important legacy has been an impressive discography stemming from a prestigious contract with London/Decca recordings.

It may be the musicians are

It may be the musicians are now more concerned with the brand put on them by their new leader, Michael Tilson Thomas, or time has dimmed their memory of a less glamorous collaboration Whatever the reasons, this year's return appearance has been less

The mighty Bruckner Fifth was given a solid performance that proved very acceptable, but it was more thrilling back in 1998.



Blomstedt: nothing earthshaking

Blomstedt's lauded grasp of the composer's architecture remains intact, but the players appeared less than willing to hew to his required discipline. For the most part, they responded attentively, yet the outcome was only respectable, and rather stubbornly esthbourd.

Mozart is not a composer closely associated with Blomstedt. As a matter of fact, his readings have been characterized as "lumpy" in the past. The recent Divertimento in D major turned out to be anything but. The sleek-ness and dash of the doughty con-ductor's reading reminded me of the sly twinkle in his eyes. Here, the players were back in tune with his low-key sense of humor and strict sense of timing.

Power play

The orchestra also responded

well during the Bartok Concerto that followed. Of course, it was really the soloist they had to keep up with. Christian Tetzlaff, at 36, is simply astonishing. The lush and demanding Concerto No. 2 showcased his powerful, astringent tone and keen understanding. I would lave to hear him in more would love to hear him in m 20th-century repertoire. Another pleasant revelation came with Blomstedt's deft handling of the

Blomstedt's dett handling of the richly textured orchestration.

The Nielsen Symphony No. 6 should have been the crowning touch of the evening, but the results were episodic, disjointed and anticlimactic. Puzzling, considering the wonderfully satisfying and highly intelligible performance recorded as part of the complete Nielsen cycle and recognized for its interpretive cohesion.

its interpretive cohesion.

The composer's intentions are far from obvious. The Sixth veers from lyrical idyllic passages to sardonic humor, tense percussive outbursts, painful anguish and abrupt resignation (or is it accep-

Blomstedt guided his old partners briskly through the ambigu-ous but fascinating score. Was it my imagination, or did Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik look annoyed at the conclusion? He has been handpicked for his job by MTT, but it couldn't have been that much of a trial to serve

another master temporarily.

The audience responded with a warm ovation, not as enthusiastic as the one given Tetzlaff, but I suspect that a lot of the warmth was meant solely for Blomstedt.
MTT has made the SFS his own
by now, and few would question
his sovereignty. Still, it is good to
have the old aristocrat back once a year. If I am chomping at the bit awaiting David Robertson's tack-ling of Olivier Messiaen's *Turan-*galila Symphony (April 24-27), I can still enjoy the more staid pleasures of this week's programs with Herbert Blomstedt. ▼

Grace receives Morimur

by Jason Serinus

hen the Hilliard Ensemble joins violinist Christoph Poppen for this Monday evening's Grace Cathedral perfor-mance of *Morimur*, they bring to San Francisco the musical construction that topped the classical music charts for months. Indeed, their ECM CD has had such a powerful effect on listeners world-wide that it is undoubtedly re-sponsible for producer Manfred Eicher's recent Grammy as Pro-ducer of the Year.

Like the Hilliard's previous

best-selling ECM Officium and Mnemosyne collaborations with saxophonist Jan Garbarek, Morimur is a haunting album. Upon first glance, it seems a curious compilation of various Bach vocal chorales and vocal excerpts, interspersed with selections from Bach's Partita No. 2 in D Minor Bach's Partita No. 2 in D Minor for Solo Violin. But upon scratching the surface, one discovers an underlay of mathematics and metaphysics that makes for a truly mystical listening experience.

ECM's 80-page booklet reveals that it was common to use numbers (represented by letters and



keys) to encode riddles and hid-den messages in Baroque music. In particular, according to Profes-sor Helga Thoene of the Universi-ty of Düsseldorf, no less than a weitable theology in numbers and notes was hidden in the sacred music of Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1994, Prof. Thoene pub-

lished an article claiming that lished an article claiming that Bach's famous Chaconne from his Partita in D Minor for Solo Violin was meant as an "epitaph in music" for Bach's first wife (and cousin), Maria Barbara Bach. Swayed by Thoene's research, violinist Poppen proposed a collaboration between himself and the famed Hilliard Ensemble; the goal was to make the "hidden charles" of the Chaconne audiwas to make the "hidder chorales" of the Chaconne audi ble to listeners

uses vocal chorales sung one voice to a part (soprano, countertenor, tenor and baritone) as links betenor and paritone) as links between the five movements of the Partita. The recording climaxes with a unique 14-minute version of the Chaconne for Violin and

of the Chaconne for Violin and Voice, in which the augmented Hilliard Ensemble sings verses in parallel with Poppen's solo violin.

Who can be sure if Thoene's research rings true, or if it in fact provides us with new insights into the ways Bach composed his music? In the end, it doesn't matter. The rewards of this deeply spiritual music extend far beyond the realm of theoretical treatises. Whether heard on disc, enhanced by ECM's customary highly atmospheric sonics, or experienced mospheric sonics, or experienced live in the resonant acoustic of Grace Cathedral, Morimur is so beautiful that one "gets" Bach's extra levels of meaning. This is wonderful music.

The Hilliard Ensemble and Christoph Poppen perform Monday, April 22, 7 p.m. at Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. For tickets, call

SF Film Festival

ter. Only the title falls short in this droll comedy of three Uruguayan droll comedy of three Uruguayan teens whose lives consist mostly of sleeping, bumming cigarettes from each other, watching boot-legged cable TV (with Leche's legged cable IV (with Lecne's grandma serving as the antenna) and moaning about their disgusting lack of ambition. In a film whose main delight is a celebration of aimless living, small pleasures abound, such as Javi's debate with his grounted by a very sight in the second of the s sures abound, such as Javi's debate with his soon-to-be ex-girlfriend about the merits of puppy chow as snack food. A special alert for cute boys with big noses. (Kab, 4/24 & 26; PFA, 4/27)

Last Wedding

Canadian Bruce Sweeney picks up where Elaine May (*The Heart-break Kid*) left off in this biting break Kid) left off in this biting satire of modern relationships gone hilariously awry. "I'm a little disappointed with a lot of the Canadian fiction I've been reading lately," says Laurel (Marya Delver), an erotic poet, to her Lit prof as she gives him a hand job while receiping time to my winning the professions time the professions time and polymers. prof as she gives him a hand job while receiving tips on winning an Arts Grant. The marriage of Noah, whose company plugs up leaky roofs (Ben Ratner, reminding us of the misguided impetusity of a young Albert Brooks), to Zipporah (Frida Betrani), a headstrong but talentless aspiring country singer, sets off shock waves that threaten every couple in their small circle. A film where waves that the catefle very couple in their small circle. A film where Vancouver plays itself (not LA), filled with jokes that slyly pay off, Last Wedding, a fable of strong women and meek men, impresses with bold sex and flawed characteristics. ters. (Kab, 4/19 & 20)

Read My Lips

Rabbi

Michael Lerner

A sexy French pop thriller for our time as much as *Diva* was for the New Wave era, veteran screen-writer Jacques Audiard's fourth writer Jacques Audiard's fourth feature focuses on a partially deaf 35-year-old woman, suffocating in her dead-end job in a Parisian real estate office. Carla (Emmanuelle Devos) finds her stuffy world rocked one day by the very scruffy, snarky and handsome Paul (Vincent Cassel), a paroled thief. Paul's clumsy attemnt at thief. Paul's clumsy attempt at rough sex with Carla pays unex-pected dividends in an odd office pected dividends in an odd office alliance and at Paul's night job, bartending for a mob-owned dance club. One of the advantages of wearing a hearing aide is that



25 Watts, Uruguayan teens in a celebration of aimless living.

you can turn the damn thing off, which Carla frequently does, giv-ing her and us freedom from the pop world. Lip-reading gives Carla power over Paul, while raw violence is the ace up his sleeve (Cas, 4/21; Par, 4/28)

Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay; Pier Paolo Pasolini

Two rather different gay saints are celebrated in terrific documentaries. In his 20s, Harry Hay (now 90) rebelled against his conservative family by becoming both a Communist and an actor. In the '50s, Hay outraged both Reds and conservative gays by founding the Mattachine Society, applying the Communist Party's secret cell structure to the task of building a modern gay move-ment. In 1978 Hay helped start the Radical Faeries to offset a trend he saw for newly out gay men to assimilate into straight somen to assimilate into straight society. Eric Slade's film, a Festival Golden Gate Award Winner, uses archival footage, present-day interviews and dramatized scenes to flesh out Hay's story. The film, positive in tone, is frank enough to indicate that Hay could at times bully his fellow gay travelers. (Kab, 4/21 & 25)

(Kab, 4/21 & 25)
Pier Paolo Pasolini's 53 years on Earth spanned a slice of Italian history from Mussolini to *La Dolce Vita*. A poet, novelist and a prolific filmmaker, Pasolini was both a rebellious Communist and a devout Catholic. Laura Betti attante to years the discondant tempts to weave the discordant elements into a film of a man who died as uncompromisingly

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as he lived. He was murdered by a street thug and ex-boyfriend, Giuseppe Pelosi, just weeks after wrapping the shoot of his masterpiece, Salò or the 120 Days of Sodom. (Kab, 4/19; Par, 4/28) The Festival is also screening Pasolini's seldom-seen *Teorema*, an allegory on suburban life, starring Betti and a young Terence Stamp. (Cas, 4/21)

Daddy & Papa

Filmmaker Johnny Symons ex-plores the road taken by his part-ner and him, and three other sets of gay dads (including one gay single parent), to adopt and raise offspring despite lingering social prejudice and formidable legal obstacles. Florida permits gay foster parents, but forbids adoption. (Cas, 4/22; Kab, 4/23; PFA, 4/26)

The Inner Tour

Israeli Ra'anan Alexandrowicz



Last Wedding, a fable of strong women and meek men, set in Vancouver.

films Palestinian families taking a bus tour through former Arab villages, and in the process constructs a poignant journey into the past that becomes a Middle Eastern *Trip to Bountiful*. Reflecting on all the invaders who have occupied the Holy Land, Alexandrowicz's camera catches one Palestinian man whispering to another, "Perhaps we were no worthy of such a beautiful place worthy of such a bedauting place. As the bus exits an American-style freeway to stop in Tel Aviv, one can almost imagine a group of Mexican families arriving in Austin, Texas. (PFA, 4/21; Kab, 4/23, 24 & 25)

Thirteen Conversations About One Thing

Jill Sprecher's moody drama of how one man's banana is another man's peel drips with irony, is ultimately more Chekhov than Solondz, and is well-served by a sublimely sad/funny performance by Alan Arkin. Opening night at the Castro (4/18).

Waterboys

Broad comedy about an all-boys synchronized swimming team that plays like a Japanese Re-venge of the Nerds. Geeky charac-ters covering all categories — kid with Afro, shy gay kid — are all losers who develop crushes on the losers who develop crushes on the female swimming instructor who crosses them up by becoming pregnant before they can compete. Silly enough to be a Thai film (in the campy style of last year's Frameline hit, *Iron Ladies*), but redeemed by eye-candy, especially in underwater scenes. As you start to weary of the lowbrow humor, the boys take their clothes off yet again. Good latenight Castro fare. Be sure to stay through the closing credits. (Cas, 4/20 & 22; Kab, 4/25) ▼



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Getting to know him

Richard Rodgers centennial brings SFPALM exhibit and events

by Richard Dodds

few days before Richard Rodgers was born, the 1901-02 Broadway season ended with a musical titled *The Chaperons*. It was the story of a Cincinnati pork-curer who, in his crusade against vice, travels to Paris to see decadence first-hand Somehow he is joined by an opera troupe, a sultan, and a rich American as they all truck off to Cairo. Clearly, the musical theater needed a Richard Rodgers.

ed a Richard Rodgers.
With the centennial of his birth fast approaching, celebrations of the Rodgers legacy are bustin' out all over. Locally, one of the main celebrants is the San Francisco Performing Arts Museum and Library (SFPALM). In addition to a free exhibition on its dition to a free exhibition on its gallery walls at 401 Van Ness, SF-PALM is sponsoring a series of events including screenings of rare videos, a talk with Rodgers' daughter Mary, and a sing-along. The week before the With a Song in His Heart exhibit was to

Song in His Heart exhibit was to open, amiably frazzled curator Sheryl Flatow was getting the final pieces into place. The room devoted to the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals was up, and a wall for the Rodgers and Hart collaborations just needed captions for its photos. But an everythingelse wall (movies, dance, revivals, etc.) was still a blank canvas.

Flatow, who also curated SF-



The Broadway composer Richard Rodgers is profiled in a new exhibit.

PALM's Stephen Sondheim and Orpheum Theatre exhibits, came to the Rodgers project already armed with research and inter-views she had done for earlier views she had done for earlier newspaper and magazine articles. For this exhibit, she also talked to Joan Roberts (Oklahomal's original Laurey), Shirley Jones (the film versions of Oklahomal' and Carousel) and lyricist Sheldon Harnick (collaborator with Podders or the musical Per)

Rodgers on the musical Rex).
"We have so much text that
we're putting most of it into
books you can carry around with

you," Flatow said. "We tried putting it on the walls, and it was ridiculously crammed with

The primary sources for the material that all those words describe are the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, the Li-brary of Congress, local theater collector Paul Newman, and SF-PALM's own archives.

Among the treasures Newman

Anting the treasures rewinian pulled from his collection are original set designs by Jo Mielziner for South Pacific, and a signed script of Oklahoma! He also pro-

tising special performances for men and women of the armed services. Prices ranged from \$2.10

From the Library of Congress From the Library of Congress come original carbon copies of Oklahoma! contracts. A contract dated Jan. 23, 1943 between Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein and the producers awarded advance royalties to the authors in the sum of \$200.

Another interesting contract to

Another interesting contract to peruse is between the Theatre Guild and Oklahoma! director Rouben Mamoulian. He received Rouben Mamoulian. He received \$3,500 upfront, plus one percent of weekly Broadway grosses, one percent of any other company presented by the Theatre Guild, and one-half percent of any fu-ture first-class productions, whether directed by Mamoulian or not. Talk about a steady pay. or not. Talk about a steady pay

check.
While Rodgers' career is wellchronicled, you won't find much about a personal life plagued with depression and alcoholism. "There has been so much lately about his personal life," Flatow said, "and it's just not that interesting to me. What's more interesting to me is the process. There is more on Hart's life, because that absolutely enters the whole collaboration. enters the whole collaboration. There's a quote from Gene Kelly that Hart was a very unhappy man because of the way he looked, and he hated being gay."

The change in lyricists, from the sophisticated Hart to the folksy Hammerstein, brought about a decided change in the sound of Rodgers' music. While Rodgers wrote the music first be-fore Hart added lyrics, the process was reversed when he teamed

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Christiane Noll and Will Swenson in Kept: beautiful, straight and square

Keep out

'Kept' fails in Mountain View

by Richard Dodds

he leading man of *Kept* is so straight, says his nelly friend, that "he didn't even know the Village People are gay." Perhaps the authors of this world-pre-miere musical thought audiences needed a wholesome lunk to guide us into the oh-so-decadent world of disco in 1979. Even his Hallmark-card mother is on hand to vank him back from the edge of, ohmigod, quitting med school

It is a very strange and disap-pointing mess that opened last week at TheatreWorks, especially

since its creators come with im-pressive if erratic credentials.

At the top of this list is com-poser Henry Krieger, whose career floundered after the deserved success of Dreamgirls. While he was able to craftily suggest a Motown sound for Dreamgirls, his score for Kept meanders from formula show melodies to a painfully er-

The lyrics by Bill Russell, Krieger's collaborator on Side Show and Everything's Durk. Show and Everything's Ducky, are pretty terrible, too. But at least the alternately generic and awkward lyrics don't upstage Krieger's

Director Scott Schwartz comes to the project from his wry work on Bat Boy: The Musical, in which he had sport with the musical form. Here he is using the same

clichés that a year ago he was mocking. You can't go home again. And maybe you'd think a mu-sical set in and around Studio 54 would at least have a fun dance number or two. But Andy Blankenbuehler's stilted choreog-raphy captures none of the fun of

raphy captures none of the fun of the era, and an underpopulated chorus can create no electricity.

But the real travesty of *Kept* is the book by Bill Russell and Stephen Chbosky that tries to connect the end of disco madness and the beginning of AIDS through a Camille-like character. Our square and straight hero (Will Swenson) gets dragged to Studio 54 by his flouncy friend (Barrett Foa), where, in a restroom filled with drag queens and drug addicts, he spies the beautiful Caleigh (Christiane Noll). It's love at first sight for him, but she's a "kept" woman, you see, and he sets out to free her from the clutches of an evil, coke-snorting businessman. And then

The whole affair is beneath TheatreWorks' usual standards, from the flimsy sets to anemic musical accompaniment. Yes, the company deserves respect for trying something new. But *Kept* you can keep. ▼

Kept will run at TheatreWorks through May 5. Tickets are \$20 to \$40. Call (650) 903-6000.



Coming attractions

Best of Broadway season '02-'03 announced

by Richard Dodds

ometimes the pay-off is pretty good being in a city that doesn't do its Best of Broadway series like anyplace else. The evidence: the just-announced 2002-03 season that includes *The Producers*, a pre-Broadway run of Baz Lukrann's take on La Baz Baz Luhrmann's take on La Bo-heme, and the newly Pulitzer Prize-winning Topdog/Underdog. Those are highlights. The eye-rollingest event of the season

promises to be the Tony Curtis tour of *Some Like It Hot.* This is a revamped version of the 1972 musical *Sugar*, with the 76-yearold Curtis moving into the sexually fluid Joe E. Brown role.

The star may also be the thing of *The Graduate*, which just opened on Broadway with Kathlern Turner and the start of the leen Turner and Jason Biggs in the Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoff-man roles. No casting yet for the tour, which will require at least one known personality to make commercial sense

It is promised that we will get the current Broadway cast of Charles Busch's *The Tale of the Al-lergist's Wife*: Valerie Harper (who replaced Linda Lavin), Michele reglaced Linda Lavin), Michele Lee, and Tony Roberts. Busch, the author of Vampire Lesbians of Sodom, moved into Neil Simon territory with this play, while bringing a refreshing spritz of weirdness.

Something oldish and something new fill out the new season: a tour of the revival of 42nd Street, and a pre-Broadway musical pre-sented from the point of view of the Wicked Witch of the West. The new musical's name is Wicked, and it will have music by Stephen Schwartz of *Pippin* fame
The run comes with an "in negotiations" advisory.

The biggest news, at least commercially, is that *The Producers* is coming. To answer a pertinent question: No, there is no casting news yet about the tour, which has gone the non-star route in Broad-way following the departure of Lane & Broderick. Martin Short will do it in LA and could conceivably come to San Francisco, but

abiy collect to an Francisco, but then again, the producers may de-cide that the show is the star. La Boheme will be sung entire-ly in Italian, most probably the first Best of Broadway entry to be so performed. Luhrmann, the film director of *Strictly Ballroom* and *Romeo + Juliet* as well as *Moulin Rouge*, is reported to have spent two years "searching the



Tony Roberts, Valerie Harper and Michele Lee in Busch's Allergist's Wife

globe" for young singers to play the bohemians of Puccini's opera. *Topdog/Underdog*, 2002's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, moved this month to Broadway from an acclaimed run at the Public Theatre, Playwright Suzan-Lori Park offers a tale of two blood brothers named Lincoln and Booth who reenact the last fateful days for Lincoln and

San Francisco's Carole Shorenstein Hays is one of the lead pro-ducers of the Broadway run of Top Dog/Underdog, as well as of The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, and she is also a partner with Scott Nederlander in the local Best of Broadway series. Haye' interest in Broadway series. Hays' interest in quirkier fare (for a typical Broadway series, that is) seems to com-bine well here with a demograph-ically hipper crowd than general-ly found elsewhere. And "else-where" also passes through the

homogenization process of Clear Channel, which operates the B-o-B series in most American cities. Here are the locations and an-

ticipated dates for the 2002-2003

- The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, Curran Theatre, Aug. 13-Sept. 8.
- · La Boheme, Curran, fall 2002.
- Some Like It Hot, Golden Gate, fall 2002.
- · The Producers, Golden Gate, spring 2003.
- Wicked, Orpheum, spring 2003.
- Topdog/Underdog, Curran, winter 2003.
- The Graduate, Curran, summer
- · 42nd Street, Orpheum, summer

Subscription tickets are now on sale, priced from \$275 to \$622. Call 551-2050 for details. ▼

Sophie's choices

Sophie B. Hawkins in 'The Cream Will Rise'

by Alex Robertson Textor

igi Gaston's documentary film The Cream Will Rise, now out on DVD, profiles singer-songwriter Sophie B. Hawkins. Cream follows Hawkins on tour, travels into emotion-laden conversations between Hawkins and her mother, and accompanies the singer to various childhood and adult haunts. The overall effect

and adult naunts. The overall effect is one of complicated, sometimes uncomfortable intimacy. Hawkins' exacting intentions for her music are well-conveyed throughout the documentary, as

throughout the documentary, as is her seething anger toward the music industry. In Cream, Hawkins' live presence as a performer is foregrounded, providing a riveting and even mesmerizing record of her distinctively physical stage manner.

But the real "news" of Gaston's Cream emerges in the repeated gestures toward the demons haunting Hawkins. What Cream does best is depict the raw material of Sophie B. Hawkins' emotional and artistic states. Many of the film's stylistic conventions miss the film's stylistic conventions miss the mark, either by going blurry or by focusing on Hawkins' feet during a soliloquy. Such conventions are hardly novel. They distract view-ers, and even sentimentalize other-

ers, and even sentimentalize other-wise powerful material.

Still, as a portrait of a compli-cated artist, Cream is a clearly suc-cessful documentary film. The film becomes most riveting when Hawkins realizes the degree to which the documentary itself is challenging her conception of her-self. More than once, she turns on Gaston, lamenting the incursion of Gaston's camera and questions into her personal life, and exposing the ways in which every documentary creates its own forms of truth. The moments when a documentarymaker becomes undeniably present are inevitably highly satisfying, and Cream presents no exception to

this rule.
The Cream DVD includes a wide range of bonus content. Most notably, this special content Most notably, this special content includes commentary from Gaston and Hawkins, and three of Hawkins' videos ("Lose Your Way," "The One You Have Not Seen" and "Walking in My Blue Jeans"). The special content also includes a photo gallery, a theatrical trailer, and artist and filmmaker biographical information formation.

maker biographical information.

The Cream Will Rise offers one



Hawkins: complicated intimacy

introduction to Sophie B. Hawkins' career. She has been in Hawkins' career. She has been in the spotlight sporadically over the last decade. After the huge single success of "Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover" in 1992, she released the album *Tongues and Tails*. Her sophomore effort, *Whaler*, was released in 1994. Whaler included the single "As I Lay Me Down," which remained in the Billboard Adult Contemporary singles chart which remained in the Billboard Adult Contemporary singles chart for well over a year. Her third album, *Timbre*, was first released in 1999 on Columbia, and re-released with a bonus disc on Hawkins' own imprint Trumpet Swan Records in 2001.

All along, Hawkins has referred in her music and in interviews to

in her music and in interviews to female lovers without choosing the term "lesbian" to describe herself, preferring at one point the Heche-esque term "omnisexual." This stance reverberates through Hawkins' statements and lyrics, marking her refusal of simple cat-

marking her rerusal or simple car-egories and clear-cut divisions. It would appear that artistry and various forms of activism are more important to Hawkins than mainstream success. In *Cream*, when Gaston asks Hawkins, "Do you want to be a star?" she an-swers, "I don't know. If I did know, other people would know." Here we have some insight into the fluctuations of Hawkins' career, why mainstream success has

reer, why mainstream success has-n't been a huge priority for her, and why she has taken her time releasing her albums. The Cream Will Rise offers cap-tivating insight into an interesting singer-songwriter. It's a must for fans and a good introduction to Hawkins for neophytes. Available on DVD and VHS, distributed by New Video.







Life after 40

Andie MacDowell's 'Crush' on a young stud

by Robert Julian

riter/director McCay makes an impressive feature film debut by plucking American actress Andie MacDowell from her usual suburban milieu and dropping her into the role of Kate, the newly ap-pointed headmistress of a rural English boarding school. Upping the ante yet again, McCay soon has the never-married Kate boffing a hunky young church organist, Jed (Kenny Doughty), after the ist, Jed (Kenny Doughty), after the funeral of her predecessor — atop a cemetery tombstone, no less.* Welcome to the ribald, premenopausal world of *Crush*.

Kate, Janine (Imelda Staunton), and Molly (Anna Chancellor) are three post-40 sinday on the conversale results.

gle women who congregate regularly at each others' homes to commiserate over the sorry state of their love lives, and the generally despicable character of the men they encounter. Cigarettes and cocktails set the tone for this regular no-coffee klatch, but the regular no-coffee klatch, but the routine is upset when Kate's affair with Jed becomes something more than casual. A former English student of Kate's 10 years earlier, Jed is a cheeky, ill-mannered, unsophisticated hottie who is always ready for a roll in the hay, the Volvo or the cheek! But he is also Wolvo, or the chapel. But he is also very much in love with Kate. After discovering Kate and Jed en flagrante, Janine and Molly get a serious case of the green-eyed monster and hatch a plan to end the ill-advised liaison.

At this point in the narrative

At this point in the narrative (about two-thirds of the way through the film), Crush takes an unexpectedly dark turn. Until this moment, the movie is filled with silly delights and devilish wit. It would be unfair to reveal what happens, but the movie makes an appropriate of the first point of the movie makes an appropriate of the first point of the movie makes an appropriate of the first point of the movie makes an appropriate of the movie makes and the movie makes an appropriate of the movie makes and the movie makes an appropriate of the movie makes an appropriate of the movie makes and the movie makes and the movie makes and the movie makes xpected shift into new territoreevaluate their relationships and



Andie MacDowell and Kenny Doughty in Crush: sexually alluring.

the status quo. It is quite a tribute to writer/director McCay that he is able to pull off the transition with considerable grace, taking a light farce into emotionally muddy waters and guiding it to an outcome that is both engaging

outcome that is both engaging and life-affirming.

Much credit goes to the three actresses at the center of *Crush*, who turn in wonderful complementary ensemble performances. But the sexually alluring presence of Kenny Doughty as the 25-year-old Jed doesn't hurt, either. Cinematographer Henry Braham cre ates a warm, welcoming palate of

lush greenery and charming cottages that idyllically illustrate the English countryside in all its rural glory. And at the very end of the film, McCay gets some great comic mileage out of an unexpected lesbian subplot. Crush is a great character-driven comedy that rewards with many laughout-loud moments and more charm than anyone could reasonably expect from a feature film debut. \P

Crush opens April 19 at theaters around the Bay Area.

Buff buffet

Three from Channel 1

by John F. Karr

lake Harper and Jackson Price give Pillage & Plunder a full-throt-tle lift-off. Blake's such a particularly nasty beaut in this opener, with Jackson equally hungry, that it's hard to survive their initial rim-Karrnal Knowledge

equally lubricious fucking to come. And then the stars' brief di-

alogue snappily satirizes their gym-buddy pick-up. The film hardly reapproaches this initial sizzle, however, spluttering along only perfunctorily. There are momentarily picturesque details, including lotsa foreskin, lots more I'm-mistaking-your-asshole-forthe-all-you-can-eat-counter, and some

and some intriguing

new faces.

And although it was a perfectly good idea to send a passel of the most popular porn stars on a pleasure cruise so they could prong each other all over the poop deck, it would have been an even better idea to move them out of the force are very deposition. better idea to move them out of the afternoon sun's deepening shadows so that we could see what's going on. At any rate, the scene kinda washes out with the tide, when the Jason Branch/Spike/Jackson Price fuck-chain is arbitrarily interrupted by chain is arbitrarily interrupted by Corey Summers sitting down on Spike's spike, which is in turn preempted, although the fucking hasn't climaxed, when the nine guys standing around watching seem to get the cue to cum. They do. And the cruise is over.

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Circuit

◀ Arts cover

Angeles roommate and the wit-Angeles roommate and the witness to his decline. As she puts it, "John's never looked better or seemed less stable." At one point, when a tweaked-out Hector and John head out for the night, they're wearing so much black eyeliner, they both look like Liza Minnelli on a three-day drunk.

Front lines

Subplots that swirl around the lead characters involve an HIV-positive gay stripper/porn star, Bobby Rocks (Paul Lekakis), who injects his penis with drugs who injects his penis with drugs before every show to increase its size. The clueless Bobby thinks of circuit parties as the gay man's Super Bowl. "I'm proud to be a leader of the circuit community, I've never felt so loved or free," he opines. Gino (William Katt) plays the heterosexual party promoter who makes a fortune off the gay community. He buys Bobby's insurance policy for cash, and then gets pissed when Bobby shows no signs of dying. Gino's wife, Louise (Nancy Allen), plays a good-natured motherly type who sees the situation around her spinning out of control on all fronts. of control on all fronts



John Wade Drahos in Circuit: the appropriate look and feel of an extended music video, with dramatic interludes.

Screenwriters Shafer and Gregory Hinton strike a nice balance between soap opera and melodra-ma. Shafer, as director, gives the film the appropriate look and feel of an extended music video with dramatic interludes. Editor Glen Richardson cuts the footage together with good pacing and an

ability to mirror the drugged-out admity to minrol me drugged-out flashbacks of the characters in a workable cinematic fashion. Tony Moran provides pounding origi-nal music and enough circuit-pasty dance anthems for the audience to walk out of the theater thumping the soundtrack. Dirk Shafer makes a series of

smart choices with Circuit. Most importantly, he does not focus on the parties themselves, which are, as they have always been, a mile as they have always been, a file wide and an inch deep. Circuit parties are just a venue — one manifestation of the large urban gay club scene that has morphed over the last 30 years from a milieu

of diverse laid-back potheads to an intense, sculpted cult of young pseudo-sophisticates who often use more drugs than they can handle. Shafer may be criticized for his rather bleak portrayal of the scene, but no one can say these characters don't exist in real life.

The actors all perform credibly, lifting the material above the level of stereotype. Shafer wisely focuses on character study, offering up many interesting entrees along the way. He provides lots of bare chests and naked bubble butts, but no male frontal nudity. Hector, the insecure hustler pushing 30, who obsesses that his cheek implants are falling, actually ascends to the level of modern gay archetype. Hector represents a recent phenomenon: the beautiful loser, a guy with a past and no future. Anyone would do Hector once, but no one in their right mind would hang out with him much longer. The unspoken irony of Circuit is that the Hectors and Bobby Rocks of the gay party scene are held up as icons to be worshipped. And without losing its sense of humor, Circuit shows rather concisely just where that leads.

**The control of the cont

Circuit plays the Castro Theatre April 24-30.

Richard Rodgers

⋖ page 30

with Hammerstein.

You can see clear evidence of Hammerstein's interests in a hand-written page from his re-search into New England dialects for *Carousel*. One example: "You certain hev got your father's man-ner of speakin."

ner of speakin."

The exhibit also includes a video station showing excerpts from television interviews with Rodgers, and a listening station of a mixed bag of Rodgers' songs. "It's essentially curator's choice," Flatow said. "I just picked music that I liked."

Here are some other highlights

choice," Flatow said. "I just picked music that I liked."

Here are some other highlights of SFPALM's celebration of Richard Rodgers. Admission prices vary.

• Flatow will moderate a conversation with Mary Rodgers and Ted Chapin, head of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization. The May 4 afternoon presentation will also include a live performance by pianist Brandon Adams and singer Jenny Lord, with a reception to follow.

• A Richard Rodgers birthday sing-along on June 28 will be led by performers from 42nd Street Moon, which itself is presenting a full season of seldom-seen Rodgers musicals.

• There will be three programs of video screenings, starting on luly 8 and 9 with the 1957 televi-

Rodgers musicals.

There will be three programs of video screenings, starting on July 8 and 9 with the 1957 television production of Cinderella starring Julie Andrews. The program has not been seen on television since its original broadcast.

On July 15, PALM will screen a 1963 Tonight Show tribute to Rodgers with Johnny Carson, Diahann Carroll, Florence Henderson, director Josh Logan, and Rodgers himself. The tape of this broadcast was long considered lost.

July 22 will bring a 1954 salute to Rodgers and Hammerstein that aired on General Foods 25th Anniversary Show. Original cast members performing their songs include Mary Martin, Ezio Pinza, John Raitt, and Jan Clayton. So esteemed were Rodgers and Hammerstein that the live broadcast aired on all four existing networks.
For more information on any ing networks.

For more information on any of the SFPALM events, call 255-4800. ▼

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Femme on femme, butch on butch

by Deborah Peifer

pring is here, love is in the air, and what better way to celebrate those facts than a new collection of romantic fiction by the incomparable Lesléa New-man. Her latest, She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not (Alyson, \$14.95),



combines wit and tenderness to provide the most jaded reader with more than a few reasons to fall and be in love.

Many of Newman's stories concern butches and femmes, and normally that would be a serious

turn-off for me. Most butch-femme writing I've encountered

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offers a set of rigid rules that proscribe behavior with a severity that John Ashcroft would admire. John Ashcroft would admire.

Newman is the only author I can
think of who writes of the butchfemme dyad with a sense of play
that makes the concept sound fun.

Nowhere is this playfulness more
evident than in "Flight of
Fancy," a tale of femme-

to-femme Eros, or on the flip side, "A Stone's Throw," which offers a look at the possibilities of a butch-butch **Book Report** encounter. Newman ex-

Newman ex-plores romance of every kind with extraordinary depth. In "Keeping a Breast," coitus is interrupted when a woman finds a lump in her lover's breast. Step by step, memory by memory, terror by terror, Newman's narrator takes us through the expreience all us through the experience all women fear. Perhaps it's because I had my own (thankfully false) alarm between the time I heard this story (in Just Like a Woman, an audio collection read by Newman) and read it, but I found this story caused very serious palpitathe fear of the woman who has the lump, but the terror her part-ner experiences at the possibility of loss. The love these two women share makes us believe they will weather any storm, even as we rejoice to learn ("Benign!") that this

is one hit they do not have to take.

She Loves Me is not all darkmess. "Mothers of Invention" sug-gests that the greatest gift a lover can offer might not be the obvi-ous one. "Bashert" reminds us what we owe to the first

woman we ever loved. Lesléa New-man skillfully uses language to explore and reveal the depths of the human heart.

Where the boys are

I can't remember a book that was more member a book that was more painful to read than *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things* by JT LeRoy (Bloomsbury, \$23.95), the story of a young boy tortured by



his mother, the succession of men nis mother, the succession of men in her life, his grandparents, and the social-services system that failed to protect him over and over again.

Jeremiah is snatched from his

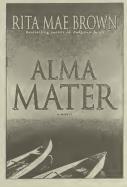
Jeremian is snatched from his loving foster parents, thanks to a system that regards biology above all, and returned to his birth mother, a woman he does not know, a sick, twisted, evil woman, whose idea of a great time is

drinking and drugging to excess, drinking and drugging to excess, and whoring around whenever possible. She convinces him that his foster parents gave him up because he was evil, and that only she and his unquestioning obedience stand between him and the electric chair. His grandparents ext their slipsy mitts on him when electric chair. His grandparents get their slimy mitts on him when his mother is in jail or just doesn't want him around, and they are a piece of work — hyperreligious, with a firm belief in not sparing the rod, or the scalding water, or the isolation cage — willing to exact any punishment if it will serve to keep their grandson from the forces of evil. It's a tribute to the rank horror of the mother that Jeremiah's time with the grandparents is less awful than time with mom. LeRoy writes with white-hot rage (the stories are autobiographical), and his tales are excruciating. He is a writer who sears the page with pain, and creates characters that are all too believable. This Heart inay just break yours. may just break yours



Edinburgh (by Alexander Chee; Edinburgh (by Alexander Chee; Welcome Rain, \$25) is also a tale of child abuse, one that, given the current scandal in the Catholic Church, is timely in a horrifying way. Fee is a boy with the voice of an angel, and naturally he is a star in the local choir. The choir director also sees the choir ca a recruit. tor, alas, sees the choir as a recruit-ing station for victims. Big Eric is a pedophile who manages to con-

vince the boys that not going along with his sexual desires would make them unmanly. Che captures the malignant soul of the pedophile with extraordinary skill. What makes *Edinburgh* so good a novel is that Chee continues the story, and the consequences of the horrors inflicted on these boys, horrors inflicted on these boys, long past the actual abuse. Big Eric goes to jail for a while, but the boys are punished forever. Fee's efforts to find a healthy life are heartbreaking, his occasional triumphs particularly moving. Edinburgh is a first novel of great power and terrifying depths.



On the other hand

The best thing that can be said about Rita Mae Brown's newest about Rita Mae Brown's newest collection of printed pages (I can't call it a novel), Alma Mater (Ballantine, \$24), is that there are no fox-hunting scenes in it. Brown is back to lesbian in this horror, and manages to write a coming out novel that makes me sorry that any of the characters are lesbians. I suppose there is something impressive about Brown's ability to write a book without a single ap-pealing, likable, or even tolerable peamig, inkable, of even tolerable character, but unless you feel the need for punishment (and boring punishment at that), you may safely skip Alma Mater.

E-mail Book Report at DeborahPeifer@msn.com.





Possession of the diva

by Stephanie von Buchau

he sad news that parterre box, the queer opera 'zine, has published its last issue (#48) after eight years of amusing and outraging hip opera-lovers, is partly mitigated by the reprinting last month of James McCourt's long-unavailable, phantasmagorical opera novel, Mawrdew Czgowchwz (New York Review Books; paperback; \$12.95).

last month of James McCourt's long-unavailable, phantasmagorical opera novel, Mawrdew Czgowchwz (New York Review Books; paperback; \$12.95).
Perhaps not by coincidence, the final issue of parterre box contains — in addition to thoughtful farewells from regular contributors Enzo Bordello and Dawn Fatale — a lengthy, dishy interview with McCourt by James Jorden, the 'zine's founder and, under the nom de plume" La Cieca," its chief scribe. (Incidentally, though his print 'zine is no more, Jorden's incendiary operatic opinions are still available online at www.parterre.com.)

The two Jameses discuss everything: how to pronounce the novel's title (it's "Mardew Gorgeous," though my gang of opera filberts always called her, sarcastically, "Chig-o-witz"); why the book has been unayailable for 25 years; McCourt's adventures as a Met standee; and parterre box's ruling mantra: "Remembering when opera was queer and dangerous and exciting and making it that way again."

ruling mantra: "Remembering when opera was queer and dangerous and exciting and making it that way again."

McCourt first created Mawrdew Czgowchwz, a putative Czech "falcon contralto" (her real antecedents are revealed in the novel) as a short story that delighted a number of highly placed literati (including Susan Sontag, who recognized high camp when

she read it.) Eventually published as a novel, the book was both hailed and excoriated. (One detractor was Ned Rorem; perhaps he wanted to keep the gay music scene to himself?)

scene to himself?)
With his encyclopedic knowledge of music, languages, art and high culture, and his sly wit, McCourt shoehorned every bit of operatic lore he could into one character. Mawrdew sings everything (flawlessly, of course) from 13th-century Flemish fragments to Isolde to "Miss Otis Regrets," inventing for herself a new vocal category, oltrano. Then she falls in love with a male oltrano, Jacob Beltane; their love scenes are full of Noel Cowardish dialogue. Interestingly, one of their duets is the Diana-Endymione duo from Cavalli's La Calisto; the recording by mezzo Janet Baker and countertenor James Bowman is the most enchanting piece of non-gender-specific singing I've ever heard, and, as it was issued in 1972 by Decca, I'd bet anything that it influenced McCourt.

that it influenced McCourt.

His repertory jokes are enhanced if you know classical music and languages, but he has a way of making you feel smart and included even if you don't get all the references. This is unlike the standing-line gang at the Met, which was typically exclusionary and high-handed in their opinions. Though McCourt himself may be forgiving and tolerant, he depicts plenty of these narrow-minded crazies in all their superficially hysterical glory. The entire novel is engineered by a gay sensibility that speaks to anyone who has ever worshipped a diva—and that would go for Judy and Liza as well as Maria or Renata.



(Even Wayne Koestenbaum surfaces with an introduction to the paperback reissue; his favorite diva was Anna Moffo.)

diva was Anna Moffo.)
When my gang read Mawrdew
Czgowchwz in 1975, we discovered
that everybody had a different
idea on whom the title character
was based. Callas and Olivero,
naturally, but Leonie Rysanek fans
were secretly sure Mawrdew was
really our girl — especially since
Rysanek's antecedents were
Czech. It's a bit of a shock to discover that McCourt's dream diva
was Victoria de los Angeles, who
apparently adored the book.
Jorden and McCourt discuss

Jorden and McCourt discuss favorite divas in the final parterre box, and discuss them as fans might, even though both men are more knowledgeable about musicology and opera performance practices than most newspaper and magazine critics and even many impresarios, almost all of whom are humor-impaired. This fan-oriented style, possession of

the diva as it were, is what made parterne box so entertaining. Yes, Jorden could attack like a Presa Canario when he disliked a singer. He repeatedly savaged Renée Fleming, though I think many times he was trying to counteract the unproductive gush that greets this flawed singer in most reviews. Nor did La Cieca ever seem to understand that one man's poison it another's encient His part. Kiri earnt her's earnt her earnt h

not the La cleak ever seem to understand that one man's poisson is another's poisson. His anti-Kiri te Kanawa rants bewilder me, because te Kanawa has a large gay following; it just isn't following Jorden's lead. He thinks Kiri is dull and boring, but I think one of his faves, Deborah Voigt, is dull and boring (at least in Italian rep). No matter how much you know, it is still a matter of personal taste, what turns you on, that keeps opera alive and fun.

Or at least how well you articulate that passion. As Enzo Bordello puts it in his farewell piece, "Too many [strange] directors have come to view the singer as an impediment to dramatic legitimacy." And, "It's as if opera as an art form had to be rescued from its own evil traditions." If that sounds like something too close to recent local operatic propaganda, Bordello is no fool. His name, incidentally, is a legacy from McCourt's hilarious high-camp monikers: Halcyon Q. Paranoy, Dame Sybil Farewell-Tarnysh, Achille Plonque, Turiddu Stameglio and Merzyia Ceraleza:

Achille Plonque, Turiddu Stameglio and Merovig Creplaczx.

My favorite part of parterre box was always the parodies. Jorden could be crude, as when he offered Jimmy Levine's "little black book" as a prize for the Opera Quiz, but he was always funny. The program for his "Parterre Box Farewell Gala" in the final issue includes Renée singing "Why Can't You Behave?" and "You're a Queer One, James Jorden" (which scores not only as a joke on Jorden's supposed anti-Fleming stance, but also on the diva's insistence that she is a good ole musical comedy gal.) The "Official Inauguration of the Gwyneth Jones Cult" features the "ritual sacrifice of Charlotte Church." And the entire production is "booed by Licia Albanese." Priceless stuff.

To the two Jameses, do not despair. Even if it may never be that way again, you guys have truly reminded us of when opera was queer and dangerous and exciting.

Talk Dirty To Me



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THE

Porn

◀ pāge 32

Fore and aft

The very unpretentiousness of Chi Chi LaRue's *Hand Picked Volume One* pays off. Perhaps to finance her ceaseless prowling, the directrix films new boys wherever she goes. These, from exotic Orlando and Atlanta (Ms. LaRue attends all the circuit parties, I guess), offer pleasant diversion and potential stardom. The scenes alternate duos with solos, only one of them indifferent. The opener offers a couple who may

not be porn stars, but would be among your first choice in any bar you were cruising. And, perhaps because they're not porn stars, they actually make out, as opposed to have sex. A beefy young college athlete directly addresses the camera during his solo, and sure knows how to tease from both fore and aft in his tighty whities. A nearly arty solo is offered in a deserted dance hall by a classy blonde unusually sporting black hornrims. Yuri Breshnev and Alec Martinez aren't newcomers, but their partners are, and the pairing assures that the

page 39 ▶

EATER

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Calendare

Earth daze

arth Day puts the pagan back in propaganda. It's a day of hype on behalf of the planet, and it celebrates all kinds of creatures, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders
— the whole diverse lot of us. Only,
we've been timid, like mice. We have we we been timid, fike finde. We have yet to bellow and roar, lion-like, to claim our rightful place in the ecosystem. We too are products of Gaia, as natural as bran flakes, and Earth Day 2002, to be celebrated on and around

natural as bran flakes, and Earth Day 2002, to be celebrated on and around April 22, is an excellent time for all good queer folk to stand up and declare their everlasting love for the planet that gave us birth.

This Saturday, at the west end of Golden Gate Park, near the Dutch Windmill and the La Playa and Fulton Street entrance, you'll find a "Song of the Earth Festival," from noon to 3 p.m., with lots of family fun and everyone thinking globally and acting locally (I've known many a gay man to kneel in the shrubbery thereabouts, worshipping privately). Meanwhile, at the east end of the park, at the California Academy of Sciences, there'll be a full day of earthy activities, including a special reptile show, "Where the Herpes Are," and other animal introductions, plus lots of drumming. Details are at www.calacademy.org

Across the Bay, celebrate Berkeley Earth Day and Eco Motion Parade on Saturday, April 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in Civic Center Park, Allston and MLK Jr. Way in downtown Berkeley. Please don't drive. Take Berkeley BART. one

Givic Center Park, Allston and MLK Jr.
Way in downtown Berkeley. Please
don't drive. Take Berkeley BART, one
block west. Dance to Kotoja, Jackie
Rago and Friends, make eco-art, shop
at the Berkeley Farmers Market, experience the Climbing Wall, and make a
personal commitment to walk more
lightly on the planet. Volunteers needed. Call 510-654-6346 or visit
www.BayAreaEarthDay.net.
Greenbelt Alliance's week-long,
480-mile bike tour of the Bay Area's
greenbelt, scheduled for April 21-27,
raises funds and awareness for local
open-space protection. Riders must
each raise at least \$750. The six-day
route covers scenic backroads during

route covers scenic backroads during the peak of wildflower season, begin-ning in SF, winding through wine country, and returning via the Sono-ma and Marin coasts. To sign up, con-

ma and Marin coasts. To sign up, contact Tim Wang at gogreen@greenbelt.org. Check out Greenbelt Alliance's website at www.greenbelt.org On Saturday, April 20, from 4:20 p.m to 4:20 a.m., join Cannabis Action Network, High Times magazine, and NORML for the "6th Annual 4-20 Hemp Festival," at Studio Z (the former Transmission Theater) at 314 11th St. (adjacent to the Paradise Lounge). Musical entertainment there will include hot drummer Zigaboo will include hot drummer Zigaboo Modeliste & The New Aahkesstra. The festival features a Hemp Seed Cafe, a Hemp Bazaar, and a variety of speakers to educate people about cannabis issues. Tickets are \$22, Call 510-486-903

issues. Tickets are \$22. Call \$10-486-8083; or surf www.cannabisaction.net
The most important Earth Day effort anyone can make is to help stop
war, or the conditions for war. Toward
this end, mass national marches are
being held on April 20, targeting "The
Real Axis of Evil: War, Racism and Powerty. In SF, thousands of protesters will gather at Dolores Park at 11 a.m., begin marching at 12 noon, and rally to hear speakers at the Civic Center at 1 p.m. To save the Earth, we first need to save ourselves.



Three friends sort through an unresolved sexual episode from their past in TAPE, previewing Thursday at Magic Theatre.

Ira & Leonore S. Gershwin Theater

Gershwin Theater
The Lamplighters open their
50th Anniversary Season with
a San Francisco premiere of
the new musical "Enter the
Guardsman," by composer
Craig Bohmler, with book by
Scott Wentworth and lyrics
by Marion Adler. Based on
the Lunt & Fontanne vehicle,
"The Guardsman" by Ferenc
Molnar, this enchanting contemporary operetta tells of a
newlywed actor and actress
and their often hillarious quest
to keep romance alive. Art and their often hilarious ques to keep romance alive. Art imitates life as husband and wife Mike Dederian and Margo Schembre play the classic Funt & Fontanne roles. Karl Pister conducts the Lamplighters Orchestra. \$25-\$38 Sat. & Sun.; \$20-\$32 Thu. & Fri. 8pm April 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 & 27; als: 2pm matinee April 21, 27 & 28, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-2787; www.lamplighters.org lighters.org

Julia Morgan Theater, Berkeley

Berkeley
One night only: "Scott Capurro: Erect in Berkeley," the self-proclaimed fag from "the fag capitol of the world," who declares that "any world that enables an enabler to preach to the hard of hearing heteros to the hard of hearing heteros about me, me, me and my cock must be sort of sloppy. And on the decline." Capurro has performed world-wide. His novel, Fowl Play, has been published in England. \$16.50 (including service charge). 8pm. 2640 College Ave. (at Derby St.), Berkeley. Tix: 1-925-798-1300. Info: www.scottcapurro.com

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

"Be Holy for I am Holy: Cre-ative Expressions From With-in." Congregation Sha'ar Zahay, San Francisco's only in." Congregation Sha'ar Zahay, San Francisco's only GLBT synagogue, presents an Art Shabbaton, a special weekend-long series of art programs (April 19-21) to explore Jewish culture through dance, drama, poetry, painting, ceramics and song. The programs include study discussions, hands-on workshops, prayer and lectures with leading Bay Area artists and educators. This event is an outlet for creative expression of the soul, repardless of individual backgrounds in art or Judaism. Workshops and Dance: \$18/adults (members); \$25/adults (mon-members); kids free, Pre-registration for workshops required, 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: Melanie Kushnir at 861-6932, ext. 305; 6932, ext. 305; mkushnir@shaarzahav.org. Complete program listed at www.shaarzahav.org/art.

Grace Cathedral

In concert: the Winchester Cathedral Choir. David Hill conducts one of England's foremost choirs of men and foremost choirs of men and boys, acclaimed by the NYT for their "quiet eloquence" in reflecting the glories of Eng-lish church music. \$15-\$35 7:30pm. 1100 California St. (at Taylor). Info: 749-6355; www.gracecathedral.org 'in

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

the Arts
AIRspace Artist-in-Residence
Dominique Zeltzman performs "The Stalker in Me," a
work employing dance,
trapeze, video phone books
and a sewing machine that
takes the audience for a ride
on Zeltzman's interior roller
coaster as she faces the trau-

AHP Services Center

AHP Services Center
"Connecting with Ourselves:
What Do We Want for Ourselves and from Others?" Are
you looking for a boyfriend?
A lover? Sex without ties?
Safer sex? Figuring out what
we want puts us in a better
position to get it. Join this
workshop, the first in the Me
Connecting 2002 series, to
discover what you desire and
how to get it, and how to continue to develop a healthy
sexuality. For gay and bisexutune regardless of HIV status. Sponsored by the REACH
Program of the UCSF AIDS
Health Project. Free. 6:309:30pm. AHP Services Center, 1930 Market St. Space

ma of being well again, rediscovers the interior of her closet, and revels in the comfort of a familiar funk: depression and insoles. \$5-\$10. 8pm.
1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Small Press Distribution, Berkeley "Open House." Shop in the SPD warehouse amid more than 8,000 independently published titles, on sale at a 20-50% discount; consume free food & drink from local culinary outlets; enjoy readings by Alfred Arteaga (House with the Blue Bed), Dodie Bellamy (Cunt Ups; The Let-



Dodie Bellamy is a featured reader at the Small Press Distribution open house in Berkeley. See Saturday.

limited; RSVP at 476.6448, ext. 1. Info: www.ucsf-ahp.or

Haas Pavilion, Mills

Haas Pavilion, Mills College, Oakland
"Sara Hook Dances," featuring deliciously awkward, emotionally complex, extremely physical works by the innovative New York choreographer, plus the West Coast premiere of "Buff x"em up, baby doll," a work in progress. Free.
8pm. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Info: (510) 430-Oakland, Info: (510) 430-

Mission High School

Mission High School Auditorium
In concert: Golden Gate Performing Arts and La Crema Winery present the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in a tribute to Freddie Mercury and Queen, whose innovative and complex vocal harmonics offered inspiration and brought respect to the popular musc gere. Songs include "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We are the Champions," and many more. Freddie Mercury was one of the most gifted songwriters and performers of the twentieth century. His life was sadly cut short by compliwas sadly cut short by compli-cations from AIDS. \$22-\$42. 8pm. Also Sunday, April 21, at 5pm. Info: 865-3650; sfgmc.org

ters of Mina Harker); Janice Mirikitani (SF Poet Laureate; Love Works); Jono Schneider (Walking and Talking; The World); and giovanni singleton (founding editor of nocturnes (re)view of the literary arts). Free. Noon-4pm (readings start at 2pm). 1341 Seventh St., Berkeley. Info: (510) 524-1668; www.spdbooks.org

SF Hiking Club

SF Hiking Club
Join other outdoors lovers for
a Point Reyes hike. Enjoy
wildflowers, ocean views and
one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the Bay Area. It's a
strenuous 17-mile hike with a
3,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet
8:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410;
www.sfhiking.com

Women's Building

Women's Building
Join feminist writer Barbara
Ehrenreich and best-selling
author Anne Lamott for "Beyond the Pink Ribbon: Challenging the Culture of Breast
Cancer," Breast Cancer Action's 5th Annual Town Meeting. An afternoon of workshops and speeches, and a
dedication ceremon. \$10 suggested donation (NOTAFLOF).
Noon-5pm. 3543 Bih St.
Info/reservations: Ron Wong Info/reservations: Ron Wong & Associates Events, 355-9988, ext 10.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema welcomes bad LA-based Pixel-Visionary Gerry Fialka with the 11th annual edition of his "PXL This!" festival. Featuring elcomes back more than 20 pieces produced with the Fisher-Price PXL-2000 toy camera. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Fort Mason Conference Center

Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library present their Quarterly Book



Dandelion Dance Theater pushes boundaries ODC Theater. See Thursday.



The SF Gay Men's Chorus pays tribute to Queen at the Mission High School Auditorium. See Saturday

Sale. All books \$1 or less! All books donated, no library discards. Free. Sat., 10am-5pm and Sun., 10am-3:30pm. Info: 437-4857.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Sara Hook Dances and Mills Repertory Dance Company perform works by Sara Hook, Trisha Brown, Jeff Slayton and others. Free. 2pm. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Info: (510) 430-3258.

LGBT Community Center

Community Center
Harvey Milk Institute class:
'Introduction to Practical Issues in Gay Male Dating, with
Jamie Moran. An overview of
dating behaviors and experiences, with tip for improving
dating. Discuss self esteem
and self-critique, understanding and accepting rejection,
ambivalence, trepidation and
vulnerability. \$25. 1-5pm.
1800 Market St. (at Octavia).
Info/registration; 552-7200;
www.harveymilk.org

Howard Street

The 3rd Annual "How Weird Street Faire," featuring live music and DJs on two stages, international vendors by the Bizarre Bazaar, nonprofit and community groups, and performance artists galore. Donations requested: \$2 in costume, \$5 without. Noon-7pm Howard Street between 11th and 12th Streets.

ın

26 Mix
Fudgie Frottage & Vinsantos
present "Transfusion," now
every third Sunday, featuring
"Trannymania, Smackdown
V" — Cat Fighting, Wig
Curling, Merkin-rakin' Madness! Starring Vinsantos,
Fudgie Frottage, The Shack,
Kennedy & Jordan LaMoore
as the Von Blondenburg Sisters, Fawn & Mink, Jane of
the Jungle, Title Holders, Tag
Teams, and more, including
local celebrity Trannies, Bois,
Grrls, Femmes. Will victorilocal celebrity Trannies, Bois, Grrls, Femmes. Will victorious Precious Moments viciously use her trademark "Boston Cameltoe" hold? Come out and see for yourselves! Preceded and followed by dancing with DJ Taffy D. \$5 in drag (King, Queen, Tranny, High Femme, Fetish, Punk, Wrestling and Cameltoe-revealing fashions); otherwise \$6. 10pm-2am. 3024 Mission St. (at 26th St.). Info: 282-5378.

lon

Plush Room

In concert: Broadway star and Bay Area favorite Davis Gaines, acclaimed in SF for

his role in the concert version of Sondheim's Sweeney Todd, and best known for his record-breaking number of performances in Lloyd Webperformances in Lloyd Web-ber's The Phantom of the Opera on Broadway and in LA and SF, \$30 + 2-drink mini-mum. 8pm Mon.-Fri.; 8 & 10pm Sat. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

Grace Cathedral

Grace Cathedral
In concert: The Hilliard Ensemble with Baroque violinist
Christoph Poppen, perform an all-Bach program featuring eight Chorales; Paritta in D minor for violin, BWV 1004, and Ciaccona for solo violin and 4 voices. Featuring Monika Mauch, soprano; David James, countertenor; John Potter, tenor; and Gordon Jones, baritone; \$20. 7pm.
1100 California Street (at Taylor). Info: 749-6355
www.gracecathedral.org

SFMOMA @ YBCA

The SF Museum of Modern Art's Architecture + Design Forum presents "Look Both Forum presents "Look Both Ways Before Crossing," featuring a talk by graphic designer Art Chantry, whose work for independent music labels, theaters and alternative publications helped define the image and identity of Seattle's late-20th century cultural renaissance with a community-conscious design vernacular. \$20. 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. (at 4th St.). Tix: 978-ARTS (2787). Info: www.sfmoma.org

Intersection for the Arts

for the Arts
"New Works/New Voices"
presents poet and playwright
Marvin K White (Last Rights;
For Colored Boys...who have
considered s-curls when the
hot comb was enuf...), joined
by poet Forrest Hamer (Call
& Response; 2001 BABRA
winner Middle Ear) in a benefit reading in support of Intersection. White is a poet, performer, visual artist, cultural
events planner, arts curator,
workshop coordinator and facilitator, and he has designed
and implemented creative arts
and writing workshops for
communities of color and
GLBT communities. His play
For Colored Boys..., which enjoyed a successful run at Theatre Rhinoceros last summer, aire Rhinoceros last summer, addresses the schizophrenia African American gay people live with being black in the gay community and gay in the black community, each with its own set of curses and blessings. He has performed with Pomo Afro Homos (Dark Fruit), 55 suggested donation. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Info: 626atre Rhinoceros last summer,

2787

Santa Rosa's Burbank

Center The Luther Burbank Center The Luther Burbank Center presents a comedy spectacular featuring Ellen DeGeneres on tour, a Bay Area exclusive. \$35-\$65. Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Rd., Santa Rosa. Tix/info: LBC Box Office, (707) 546-3600; wow lib net

Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage

Inrust Stage
Opening night: Tony Kushner's "Homebody/Kabul," directed by Tony Taccone. A bored English woman, the Homebody, has disappeared in Afghanistan, and conflicting stories relate that she is dead, or has married an Afghan man and chosen to live the sequestered life of a Afghan man and chosen to live the sequestered life of a Muslim woman in Taliban-ruled Kabul. Her daughter Priscilla ventures into the dangerous land, guided by a man who claims to be s simple Tajik poet, to find a mysterious Afghan woman who is the first wife of the Homebody's alleged new husband. Playwright Kushner (Angels in America) is the recipient of a Pulitzer, two Tony Awards, and the LAMBDA Literary Award for Drama. \$38-\$54. 8pm. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 647-8pm. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 647-2949; www.berkeleyrep.org

Stop AIDS @ Harvey's The Stop AIDS Project cele-brates Program Director Steven Gibson's resignation with a tribute and benefit. Raffle prizes, entertainment, a nd a complimentary cham-pagne toast. \$5 donation. 8-11pm. 18th & Castro. Info:

Preview: Stephen Belber's
"TAPE," directed by Amy
Glazer. Set in a Motel 6 in
Lansing, Michigan. Three
friends must sort through a
traumatic sexual episode from
ten years earlier. Vince's
main income is from does ten years earlier. Vince's main income is from dope dealing; Jon is a filmmaker on the brink of success, who wears \$200 shoes and holds forth with myriad theories on society's shortcomings; Amy is a self-assured district attorney with a certain threshold for Vince's drug business, a woman who has tried to put the past behind her. As Jon unravels the trap Vince has laid for him and Amy refuses to play along, none of them can predict where the reckoning will lead. Previews \$17. Opening night is Friday, April 26. \$27-\$37 Fri., Sat., Sun. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2:30pm Sun., plus 7:30pm May 5 &

ODC Theater

ODC Theater
presents Dandelign Dance
Theater in a raw, emotionally
driven, boundary pushing performance, co-directed by Eric
Kupers and Kimiko Guthrie.
Guthrie explores the land-Rupers and Kimiko Guthrie.
Guthrie explores the landscape of loss in the world premiere of Strange Hole. The
work features a new duet
choreographed and performed
collaboratively by Guthrie and
Kupers, with Dawn Frank,
Kerry Gaither, Debby Kajiyama and Ching Chi Yu. Kupers
premieres Start Adrift, Part
2, with Manuelito Biag, Manfred Schaechtle and Oscar
Trujillo. The dance delves into
the nature of dating in the
gay world. Also: Kupers' Undressed, a work that interrogates the assumptions of
physical beauty that have engendered an array of insecurities, from anorexia and bulimia to self hatred and
abuse. \$15 adv.; \$17 door.

8pm. Thu.-Sat. thru May 4.
3153 Seventeenth St. Tix/inf:
863-9834;
www.odctheater.org; Studio @ Rhino

Back by popular demand (8 performances only):Lavender Lockeroom, written and directed by F. Allen Sawyer, whose mission in this "Comedy with Balls" is to reclaim dy with Bails" is to rectain the gay pulp novels of the '50s and '60s. Despite their homoeroticism, these vintage tomes usually ended with the main character converting to main character converting to heterosexuality, or worse committing suicide. Sawyer adds a modern gay sensibility to his stories while retaining all of the campy carnality. \$15-\$18. Thu-Sat. at 8:30pm; Sun. at 7:30pm. April 25-28 and May 9-12. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. (at Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861- 5079.

WANNA SUBMIT?

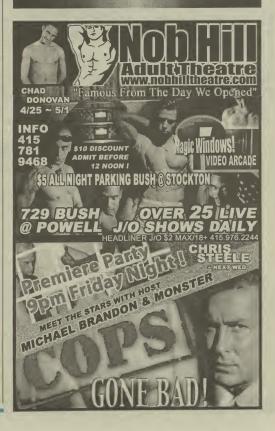
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Mark Mardon Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

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SEE THE THING HELF!







Phoenix Uniform Club First Officer Tommy Thomas, left, welcomed Empress II Bella as a friend of the organization at the club's 30th Anniversary Gala last Saturday, April 13 at Most Holy Redeemer Church.

Men in uniforms un

by Mister Marcus

he Phoenix Uniform Club celebrated their 25th an-niversary last Saturday in the club room of Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro. Hundreds of guests mingled in the nifty orange draped room (by Bella, of course!) and were treat-ed to a full open bar for three hours and a gourmet quality buffet and hors d'oeuvres by the ton. It was a fitting

the ton. It was a fitting tribute to one of Califor-nia's most respected clubs. Several people were named "friends of the club", and former members and founders were intro-duced by Mr. Volume Dennis Silva (no mi-crophone but everybody

heard him!). It was a scintillating

The surprise of the evening was the announcement that the Leather/Uniform Ball 2002 in June in the Green Room at the War Memorial Building will be charging only \$25 (in keeping with their 25th anniversary). This will include the usual hours of open bar, the usual gourmet buf-fet and the ever-popular Gail Wil-son backed up by City Swing. It should be a total sell-out this year, so get your tickets early! A passing thought

So much can be said about the leather title-holder game. Some people look at the whole system with disdain, while for others, it's a nomadic tour into venues where brotherhood, sisterhood, camaraderie and just plain getting to-gether, renewing acquaintances and making new ones is the object of these "leather circuit weekends.

There have been title-hold-

There have been title-holders great, near-great, not-so-great, "did their job(s)"—
and some you prefer to forget forever; yet, each in their own way tried to make a difference, put themselves on the line, and experienced high praise, cult status, worship, along with worship, along with the occasional das-

tardly dish, criticism and vileness.
When you sit back and think
of the hundreds of thousands of

dollars these people helped raise to make life better for those less to make life better for those less fortunate, none of it is done in vain. These people are in office for only one year. Some live on with "legendary" status for years to come. Others just drift silently away, except for a sporadic ap-pearance or an outrageous posi-tion on any view issue. tion on any given issue

Coming up next

The Mr. Sooner State Leather

contest, "Tribal Fire," will take place in Oklahoma City this coming weekend (, April 19-21) and the 2002 edition of the American Leather Man, Leather Woman and Leather Boy (April 25-27) competition in Washington.

No word on how many contesting for itself eiger titles in Oklatons for Tibel Fire titles in Oklatons for Tibel Fire titles in Oklatons

tants for Tribal Fire titles in Oklahoma, ABW in Washington, DC homa, ABW in Washington, DC looks promising. Already in the competition are eight men (including two from California), six women, and eight boy contestants (five males, three females). The judging panel is in place and the host hotel, Washington Plaza is filling up rapidly. It's also a meeting the property of the pro nining up rapidly. It's also a inecting ground of sorts for IML 2002 contestants jockeying for recognition by what is usually a big percentage of IML judges. ABW is always a fun weekend, but if you're not able to attend all these events in person, never fear. The results

in person, never fear. The results can be found in this column and definitely with lots of color photos on www.Leather Page.com!

In Albany, New York, the Stars Motorcycle Club staged their annual Mr. Empire State Leather contest in the spiffy new Phoenix Bar (a three-story leather bar getting "tave" reviews). Former IM Drummer Boy Ryan Goldner emcee'd the proceedings (this is getcee'd the proceedings (this is getting to be a habit!) and there were three contestants. When judges Jill Carter, Al Santora, David Bald-

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Leather

Thursday, April 18

Mr. October 2003 on the bare chest calendar will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse at 2130. Win \$100, fame, and perhaps a new mate? Judging: Jim Gatteau, Gary Virginia and Bob Goldfarb.

Weekend, April 19-21

Mr. Sooner State Leather in Oklahoma City at the NLA Oklahoma City's "Tribal Fire" weekend. Look for results here next week!

At the Boston Ramrod, the New England Re-

gional Leather Sir/Boy ontest at that fabled bar. Winners go on to compete in Florida in October In Los Angeles, Regiment of Black & Tans' Maneuvers 2002" weekend for leather mavens, all very militaristic. Click on www.blackandtans.org or call (310) 967-3980.

Friday, April 19

Exiles of SF present "Incorporating Fear & Terror Into Your Scenes" with the original Evil Mommy -Tina! Doors open 1930; terror in your hearts at 2000. Women's Bldg.

The Golden Dildeaux Awards 2002 at the Eagle Tavern, beer/soda bust begins at 2000. Who will win the prized trophies? All in fun to benefit the AIDS

the prized trophies? All in fun to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Will Ralph Peterson show up? Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Sa-loon, 1500-1800 with a \$7 tab to benefit Health Initiatives for Youth. It's always fun with the BOSF.

Sunday, April 21

Suntary, April 21

Lance Brittain presents "A Night of Demos and
Scenes" at the Loading Dock, from 1800-2100, with
a \$7 donation to benefit Positive Resources Center.

Memorial service for the late Emperor IX
Bobby Pace at Most Holy redeemer Church at

1500. Much loved, much respected. We love you,

Wednesday, April 24

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison — strict dress code enforced. No sneakers, no cologne, just boots, leather, uniforms, latex and no attitude! For info, (415) 777-HEAD. \$10 entry fee.

Back on the job

by Sweet Lips

ell, Hal Deemer and I have returned from a fabulous vacation in Puerto Vallarta, and you'd be amazed at all the people from San Francisco who were down there! Oddly enough, the really crazy one was a guy named Mark from Bisbee, Arizona! That hilly former mining town on the Mexico border is now an artists' colony, and apparently the people there are off apparently the people there are off their rockers! Anyway, we had a their rockers! Anyway, we had a blast in P.V. Mark and Rudolfo, who have been together for seven who have been together for seven years, run the very popular Adobe Cafe in the town. They're great hosts and serve great food, so don't neglect to visit them when you're down there sunning. I'll be paying them another visit when I return to P.V. on the third of December for 10 days. After all, I tun 80 on December Lev I'ven

turn 80 on December 1, so I've earned some fun!

Now that I'm back at home after my R&R, I've had a chance to catch up on who's doing what in the local scene, and I have a few tidbits to **Cocktail Hour**

First, former San Franciscan John Hauser, of QT Bar fame, was in town for a vacation from Hawaii, where he now lives, and all I could think is a vacation from Hawaii? Uncle Bert's Saloon in the Cas-



Mark, Lips and Rudolfo at the Adobe Cafe in Puerto Vallarta: olé!

tro still has the popular Marlow

walking the plank on Satur-day, and Harold on

Sunday nights, so drop in there and give them my regards. The handsome Danny Bench, formerly of the Cinch Saloon, now works at Kimo's on Thursday af-

ternoons, as well as on Sat-urday and Sun-day mornings, so do drop in and have a drink with him.

The Club Rendez-Vous on

Polk St. (at Bush) has the sexy Men of Exotica performing every first and third Sunday night, so

don't miss their show at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. There's a \$5 cover charge to check out these hunks, unless you arrive before 6:30 p.m., in which case you can get in fee.

Don't forget the Club Rendez-Vous has the very popular Kenny or Yours Truly walking the plank from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, except on Fridays, when "ya hear me" Ronnie struts her stuff. Son, come

Ronnie struts her stuft. Son, come on down.

Thanks to my boss L. James at the Club R-V for doing such a great column for me while I was gone — and no, he is not going to take over the column permanently. He makes a fine substitute, but there's no replacing La Lips.







Mister Marcus

previous page

win, Master Harley and Eric Cammer got through, the de-clared winner was "DJ" Williams. Chris Garrett was the 1st runner-

Chris Garret was b] Williams. Chris Garret was the 1st runner-up and John Dunham was the 2nd runner-up. "D]" advances to compete for American Leather Man 2002 in Wash., DC next weekend. Good show, Stars MC. Finally, this coming Saturday night, April 20, we'll all find out who were the "sexiest" people during 2001 as the annual Golden Dildeaux Awards ceremony takes place at the Eagle. Good luck to all the nominees!

Until next week, live, love, laugh and play safe. Just do it in leather! And for news from columnists around the country, read www.LeatherPage.com!



Mr. Leather Holland 2002 Borisz Mos was chosen to represent his cour try at IML 2002 in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend. He was chosen

Porn

▼ page 35

delectable newbies will be well bodybuilder (now that's a combo); the other is Matt Summers. He had a cameo in *Pillage & Plunder*, but this is much better. Plunder, but this is much better. Following an orgasm like grand mal seizure, Matt quips, "See you in the movies, boys!" and you're eager for the next one. Only complaint, beside the trivializing muzak: following the most teasing build-ups, these latter two boys don't get fucked. Whatsamatta, Chi Chi, didn't the circuit party have a bowl of free condoms?

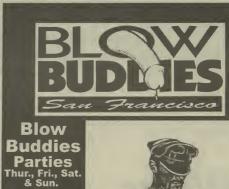
Polish sausage

If you want to hear a porno movie's title tune sung in Polish, you'll find Steele Pole fulfilling. And if you want to see what bad American porn looked like in the



mid-'70s, this is a good example. MIG-708, this is a good example. Gloomy interiors, pasty lighting, cheap film stock providing a grainy picture, the music a con-tinual canned distraction deliv-ered with all due distortion. Who knows how Chris Steele was inveigled into starring in this Polish-made porn, but he got a trip to Warsaw out of the deal, if not much good sex. Chris' Polish costars are lousy cocksuckers. You'd think they'd go whole hog over Chris' imported delicacy, but none can manage more than its head, massaging the rest as if to hide the shallowness of their skill. They take it up the ass, though, and Chris gives it to a couple of bodybuilder chums (to whom he even says, "Yes," "No," and "Thank you' in Polish.) So there are some big globes being parted by a mighty dick for at least several minutes, however unimpassioned minutes, however unimpassioned the couplings. I had to resist the scan button during this dreary tale, which lives up to its title by actually giving you the shaft.

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GLANCES

Rick from South Dakato
Call your new hairdresser. I didn't get
your phone number. \$\sigma 71661\$

Eddie, With A Friendly Face Muni, Inbound, 4/2 @ 6:15pm we in-troduced & spoke brief. You, going to gym. Me, meeting visiting guests for dinner, I exited at Powell. That was my first mistake. Ross. **22** 71695

Safe sex is hot sex! SAFE

"Bump!" Sunday Morning 4:30am Guy from East Bay. From: Baton Rouge, LA. Give me a call. Enjoyed dancing with you. Sorry, had to go. Let's do it again. If interested give Mike a shout at: 22 71714

Play safe. Wear a condom. 22 SAFE

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Santa Rosa Native SWM, 5'10", 170#, 41, Redhead, ex-navy, owns mobile home. Enjoys drumming, the outdoors, talk radio. Seeks Female. 22 71662

Slim Asian or Caucasian 40-60 Quality GWM, 5'9", 130#, 63(looks 50), is attractive, caring, happy and healthy. We are HIV negative, enjoy JO, and want a lifetime of loving, caring, sharing, and living together. № 71663

Self-Aware and Sensitive to the needs of others. I am looking for a partner. I am a 54yo GBM, practical and romantic. I am intelligent, sexually bottom. Eclectic interests. I like learning and experiencing.

22 71664

~Asian~ Boyfriend wanted for fun and friend-ship. Hiking, camping, dinners and...? By retired GWM.

71665

Asian Seeks Date Goodlooking, cleancut masculine GAM 30, 5/8, slim boy next door with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking, masculine cleancut GWM 40 or younger for friendship, dating etc. @ 71666

Positive on Peninsula 43 years old GWM, 6'2", 205#, Blond, Blue, Goatee. Enjoys walks on the beach, movies, time at home, tennis. Looking for LTR with non-smoker, must have a sense of humor. \$\mathfrak{D} 71667

How About A Little Bump & Grind GBM prof. top 50 seeking GWM bottom 48-60yrs for good hot sex on an ocassional or on going basis. Also open to some type of relationship but horny for now. Smk, drink, and aroma all good. Prefer you be somewhat stocky built, enjoy sexy underwear and nudity. No heavy beards. \$2 71677

Seek Uncut Richmond District W/cock for sucking. Be smooth, light hairy, clean shaven, not bail or pierced. Be nice easy going for w/husky goodlooking Construction worker with sucking fantasy, possible anal action. \$\to\$ 71679

Need One Small Cock To Suck Under 6" w/or Japan, China, Malaysia, S.E. Asia, under 40 Thailand A+. May accept anal entry. Be smooth or little hair clean shaven a must long term relationship.

↑ 1680

"Let's Get Together!"
GWM, Slim, 6'2", 36, Br/Bl eyes,
Creative Home owner, looking for
similar-type GWM who enjoys wkend
outings, brunch, fireplace chats, hot
tubing, sunsets, sleeping over. Looking forward to meeting you.

11697

Masc Thick Stache/Goatee? Read Hot masculine, muscular, intelligent, publicly shy and nice, privately rowdy fun spirit. Incredible intense fuck, but seeking more with another good soul. Versatile bottom 4 hung hairy top.

1098

Single Male Looking For Asian Woman. I'm a 22yr. old male, 5'5'' blond hair baby eyes 200lbs. Looking for a lesbian Asian women who likes to cook, rock climbing, biking, and camping. 12 71699

·Slave Wanted · •Slave Wanted•
Companion-oriented, multi-faceted master, handsome 40's, seeks inshape slave under 50 for training. I'm 5'10", 175#, br/bl, moustache, HIV-. Enjoy butt play, W/S, fucking (condoms). Gay, single only.

71702 Forever, Anyone?
33yr. old Mediterranean. 6', 150, black hair, goatee. Looking for life partner who is willing to love and be loved. Prefer romantic, intense, happy men. NS/ND. 12 71700

Dad's Boy SF dad in Itr wants boy to satisfy unmet needs, ongoing. Boy's submis sive, oral 30's/40's, NS, any race. Dad's 5'10", 165#, 55, HIV-. Into vanilla to kink to lite raunch. **22** 71701

GWM Btm HIV-Seeks top bld/blu med no smoke, non-drinker 38-50 years old. № 71678

SEEKING **ADVENTURE**

Shut up and Ride WM 37, 5'10", 195# blond, blue muscular wants goodlooking mascu line men to screw, anytime and any place. № 71668

Have Nine Inches of Thick Dick to stretch your asshole. Hot top, 6'4", 190#s. Ready to fuck your butt. Minorities welcome. Cocksuckers and rimmers OK. \$ 71670

Fuck my 2 Hungry Holes
Hot/Horny GAM seeks nice delicious
cock to fill me up. I'm excellent in
bed and always cleaned, ready and
lubed. GWM + 12 71671

Oral Submission
New to bisexuality. Straight mature
WM wants to provide oral service on
a regular basis to Asian or White mature male. No reciprocation wanted. ture male. 271672

Mature Man seeks Suck Buddy Inshape WM 6'2", 200#s hung cut cock, big balls seeks younger guy who can orally service on a regular basis. 22 71673

Alpha Wolf howis For Beta Wolf You on your Knees servicing me. You on all fours with me pumping you. Long and hard. Both sweaty. Both Sated. Both satisfied. 20 71674

"Hungry Mouth Wantel!" Italian, 50, 57", 160lbs, neg., 7.5x5", low hangers, seeks aggressive cocksucker with lots of stamina for long sessions. Aroma A+. 12 71681

Looking For Horny Senior Citizen Goodlooking GAM 28, like to watch senior citizen j/o, married is ok. Feel your hot cum splatter on my nice body. Clean shaven only. \$\mathbb{Q}\$ 71683

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Oral Expert Seeks Hung Guys
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me. The bigger the better. We can
also watch some excellent videos.

↑ 1685

"Love to Kiss?" I Do!
Cute GWM, 30, 6', 180#, very oral, loves foreplay, sucking cock, rimming. Seeking gay man or couple, 25-45, in shape, any race, for hot times. 12 71687

Let's Party!
I'm looking for guys who like three or four ways, or just kick back and jerk-off watching good videos, and have a real fun time. 2 71688

Mulatto Guy Looking for White, Hispanic, and others who are good looking or hung for party, watch videos, jack-off, etc. Call me. \$\mathbb{Q}\$ 71689

Jack-Off Buddies Wanted
I'm seeking guys who are fun, hung
and maybe fairly good looking, for
jack-off suck and do other things.

↑1690

Daytime Telephone

Are You Over 65 And Need A BJP Kick back enjoy free beer xxxvideos and oral service from masculine mature WM. You an Asian or VM out "%" or more. I'm inexperienced but quick learner. No reciprocation. Ω 71682

Spank Your Butt Goodlooking topman, 37, 5'11", 170#, works out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spank ing. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. **22** 71691

Wanted! Blk Muni, UPS, Fed Ex Delivery Drivers. Let this White/Latin cock-sucker service you, while you're on duty. We meet on your route, get in your vehicle then I suck you off. One time only, or on a regular basis. 27 71703

Butt Rides On My Moustache Hot lean W/M 42 big bushy 'Stache brn/bl 6', 170 needs hot trim butts i my face for tongue exercises. George 27 71704

S.Vale Boy Needs Hot, Hairy, Dad Hot 40yo WM, looking for hot, horny daddy for day/evening encounters. Me: 6'1", 230lbs, brn/gray, 8". 12 71705

Straight Seeks Safe Sex BJ
Masculine mature WM seeking weekly full body massage followed by cock
play and blow job. No reciprocation.
Your place only. \$\omega\$ 71706

Dom Bi Male Seeks Dog Slave You: 18-45 HIV- submissive fit clean, expert squirt, emotional need to serve, SF place. Me: bi WM HIV-dominant strict. For: weekly dog training, head, ws, rim feet ropes. \$\mathbb{Q}\$ 71707

On My Knees For Your Cock
W, 48, It brn hair, green eyes, heavy
guy, loves sucking cock. Prefer
Black's or Latino's but will suck any
cock off. Looks not important, a nice
size cock is. \$\mathbb{Q}\$ 71708

Big Dick White Top Want Hot White ass to fuck. I'm 58 6'0" 175lbs drk brn hair, brn eyes glasses hairy chest, big 9"dick looking for your 18-40 hot White bottoms to fuck. 120 71709

Horny Student UCSF medical school, easygoing, SWM, 38/6/175, br, br, fil, discreet, hairy, clean, HIV-Neg; seeks buddy, WM, HIV-Neg to receive massage, rim & jackoff. My place Twin Peaks, no reciprocation necessary. ♀ 71710

LESBIAN

"Do You Have A Rim Seat?"
Want a very oral body builder dad
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71692

FETISHES

Sub SM BD CBT TT FF WS RIM VA Merciless, gagging, choking, skull fucking. Boot/Foot worship. Flogging, whipping, strapping, paddling. Me: 35, smooth, HIV+. You: Dom, clean, sane, sadistic.

↑ 71675

Ball Pig for Worship Masculine, goodlooking , red buzz, 160 %, fit, 34yo WM needs big low hanging balls to worship. Owner must be masculine, goodlooking , serious and hanging large. Tattoos and skins a plus. 120 71676

Man W/Toe Ring Loves Barefeet Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasting about men's barefeet. Gdlkng East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play.

11093

Hung Oakland Black Male, 48, Wakes up hard and horny at 5:30am. I need an oral expert here at that time. Please no beards/goatees (they scratch) or voicemail/pager #'s. 120 71711

Lonely Dad Wants Pretty Boys HM, 54, seeks pretty boys to light up my day. (20-27 only), 69, French/ Greek, discreet, no b.s-pretty-lips for cock-sucking. @ 71712

Dominant Bear Sought by mature masculine submissive into D/S BD/SM for erotic play. Sub is intelligent, with sense of humor.

71713

OTHERS

Small Asian Hairless Butt Wanted By GWM, HIV+ top, 48, slim, ISO into yg bottoms for long rimming ses-sions & long fucking action. Be slim, bubble buns, HIV+. Have lizard tongue for perfect ass. \$2 71694

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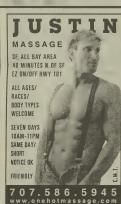
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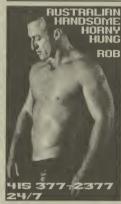
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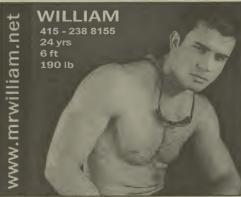
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